

Ceausescu to put Palestinian names to Shamir for parley

By BENNY MORRIS

BUCHAREST. — President Nicolae Ceausescu is likely to focus on the problem of Palestinian representation in prospective Middle East peace talks when he holds his next meeting with visiting Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

The *Jerusalem Post* has learned that Ceausescu met last Friday with Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij in Bucharest and that Freij, believed to be still in Romania, has also discussed the Middle East peace process and the problem of Palestinian representation in future negotiations with other senior Romanian officials.

The Freij visit came only a few days after talks here between Ceausescu and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Sources said that Ceausescu is likely to propose to Shamir, "names or categories" of Palestinians who may be acceptable to him as future negotiating partners in line with conclusions reached in the Romanian president's meetings with Arafat and Freij.

At their first meeting yesterday, Shamir and Ceausescu only generally broached the problem with Shamir profusely thanking Ceausescu for his continuing efforts on behalf of world and Middle East peace.

Shamir expressed particular appreciation for Ceausescu's "instrumental" role in bringing Israel and Egypt together in 1977-78 for the Camp David talks and agreements.

Both delved deeply into what they regarded as the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shamir also expressed appreciation for Ceausescu's efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewish emigration, citing Romania's readiness to serve as a way-station for those en route to Israel. Shamir said he also appreciated Ceausescu's attitude towards Jewish emigration from Romania to Israel.

Ceausescu responded that he had always opposed racism and had himself, during World War II, fought against fascism. Ceausescu added that while he thought that all Romanians should live in Romania, he would not stand in the way of Romanian Jews who decided to live in Israel.

Shamir said that was an expression of Ceausescu's "friendly attitude" towards Israel.

Earlier, Shamir held a 90-minute meeting with Romanian Prime Minister Constantine Deskelescu, focusing on various bilateral issues.

The two agreed that Israeli and Romanian delegations under economic ministers from each country, should meet "within two to three months" to discuss ways of increasing Israeli-Romanian trade and other aspects of economic cooperation.

The discussion between the two premiers focused on the state of Israeli-Romanian trade, which stands at \$30 million in Israeli imports from Romania and \$7 m. of Romanian imports of Israeli goods. Trade between the two countries has declined steadily since 1981.

Deskelescu proposed that Israeli businessmen and Romanian economic officials meet to discuss various

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)



Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu gives a hand to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir before their meeting in Bucharest yesterday. (Reuters telephoto)

Arms cache belongs to PLO, London court told

By DAVID HOROVITZ

JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT LONDON. — The massive Arab arms cache discovered by police in Hull on Monday was collected by the Palestine Liberation Organization, a London court heard yesterday. It was probably intended for use during a summer bombing campaign throughout Europe, police believe.

Ismael Hassan Sowani, the 28-year-old Palestinian-born university research assistant in whose home the cache was found, was remanded in custody by the Lambeth Magistrates' Court on charges of possessing explosives.

Sowani has admitted to police that he was looking after the arms — the largest cache of Arab terrorist material ever found in Britain — for "an associate connected with the PLO," the court was told.

The police are staggered by the size of the haul — 84 lbs. of Czech-made Semtex high explosives, four assault rifles, hand grenades, ammunition, and bomb-making equipment.

Informed sources told *The Jerusalem Post* that such a quantity was far too large for use in any one terror mission, and that they believed the PLO may have planned to use the Hull flat as a "weapons headquarters" from which to launch bombing missions all over Europe this summer.

Sowani, who holds Jordanian nationality, is believed to have come to Britain in 1984. He has an English-born wife named Carmel.

The police objected to bail because they feared that Sowani might not attend his eventual trial; that he might try to speak to witnesses; that he might try to commit further offenses; and that his own safety would be at risk.

Anti-Terrorist Squad Detective Superintendent Alan Talbot, who led the raid on Sowani's flat, told *The Post* that Sowani has "intimate knowledge of the identities" of Arab terrorists in Britain, and that, if Sowani had been released on bail, "an attempt would be made by members of this group to prevent him identifying people to the public."

Two more Israelis held in UK robbery

By DAVID HOROVITZ

JERUSALEM POST CORRESPONDENT LONDON. — Two more Israelis were arrested last night and charged with involvement in Britain's biggest ever robbery, last month's £30 million raid on the Knightsbridge Safety Deposit Centre. The two are Julia Abraham Bar Tov, 39, and her brother-in-law Yossi Meshulam, 32.

They are alleged to have smelted down in their Hatton Garden jewellers shop Krugerrands and gold coins to the value of £250,000, stolen in the robbery.

The two will appear today at London's Horseferry Magistrates' Court. Two other Israelis, Israel Pikas and Eliyahu Efrati have already been charged in the robbery.



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa displays his left knee hurt in the grenade attack inside the parliament building in Colombo yesterday. (AFP telephoto)

Sri Lanka head unharmed, MP dies Grenades thrown inside parliament

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka. — An assailant hurled hand-grenades into a crowded conference room in Parliament here yesterday, in an apparent attempt to kill President Junius Jayewardene and members of his cabinet and party.

Jayewardene escaped unharmed, but one lawmaker was killed and 14 others, including Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, were wounded.

The assailant escaped in the confusion. The attack came just as the governing United National Party was to discuss an Indian-brokered peace plan aimed at stopping bloodshed between the majority Sinhalese and the Tamil minority. Parliament was to reconvene an hour later after a month-long recess.

A previously unknown group calling itself the Patriotic People's Movement claimed responsibility for the onslaught.

An anonymous caller told the BBC that there would be further attacks because the government had "betrayed the people" by signing the peace agreement.

Police and soldiers immediately sealed off the modern, oriental-style building southeast of the city. Riot police ringed the three-storey structure, which sits on an island surrounded by a small man-made lake, and hundreds of heavily armed troops took positions at key intersections around the capital.

The President said he had bloodstains on his shirt. "I will keep it as a memento," he said.

The attack occurred at about 9 a.m. in the plush

conference room where Jayewardene presided over the meeting of about 120 party members.

MP Vimal Wickremasinghe told the press that a door to the right of the head table burst open and "someone fired a blast of machine-gun fire."

Then, Wickremasinghe said, he saw two huge orange and black grenades tossed into the room. They exploded on the floor.

Wickremasinghe continued: "Pandemonium broke loose and the legislators began yelling and diving under tables."

"There was much smoke and some men began breaking out windows to escape from the ground-floor room. Several members were cut slightly by jagged shards and there was blood all over," he said.

The lawmaker also said that the authorities had kept all 500 members of the building staff under house arrest all day and forbidden them to wash their hands until after they were fingerprinted.

A secretary who answered the telephone at the Parliament building said she saw 15 wounded men taken from the room. About 10 were wounded badly enough to be rushed to hospitals in private cars, but the others did not appear seriously hurt.

An army officer confirmed the death of Kirith Abeywickreme, district minister for the southern Matara region. He said nine other lawmakers had been taken to two hospitals, but he did not know how seriously they had been hurt.

Abeywickreme had junior minister rank. She died in hospital from head wounds, doctors said. (AP, AFP)

Escape could have been engineered

Hostage Glass says he locked up sleeping guards in Beirut

Post Middle East Staff
and Agencies

American hostage Charles Glass locked up his sleeping guards during a dramatic flight to freedom in Beirut yesterday which he had planned for 10 days.

"I got the iron chains and handcuffs off my wrists and ankles. While the guards were snoring I locked them up," the gaunt but cheerful newsman told reporters in Damascus yesterday.

Glass said he worked his chains off slowly over a period of time. With difficulty he made his way down from a sixth or seventh floor apartment and walked to a nearby bakery in the south Beirut suburb of Bir al-Abd, a Shi'ite Moslem stronghold where he was held captive.

"I met two customers, a man and his wife. I told them I was a Canadian of Lebanese origin and that I wanted a doctor from the Summerland Hotel for my little daughter.

They gave me a lift," he said.

He arrived at the plush West Beirut hotel at 2:30 a.m. and contacted Syrian troops who whisked him to Damascus. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa later handed him over to U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Ransom.

Glass said his former employers at ABC Television news had chartered a plane to take him home last night to his wife and five children in London.

There was speculation in Damascus that Iran may have engineered Glass's release to counter the Arab pressure on Assad. Iran is anxious to avoid a Syrian-Iranian diplomatic break that would leave Iran virtually isolated in the Middle East at a time when it is confronting the U.S. in the Gulf.

Glass, however, insisted that his flight had not been staged. Looking tired but in good shape

after his 62-day ordeal, the tall dark-haired reporter said: "The people who really suffered were my wife and children. All I want to do now is get home, see my wife and children."

Glass, on leave of absence from ABC to research a book on Lebanon, was kidnapped June 17 with Ali Osseiran, son of Lebanon's Defence Minister.

Osseiran was freed after a week. But the kidnappers who identified themselves as members of the previously unknown Organization for the People's Defence, held onto Glass.

The Syrians were particularly angered by Glass's kidnapping, the first of a foreigner since Syrian troops moved into West Beirut February 22.

"We considered this an unacceptable challenge to us. Your case was a real challenge to us," al-Sharaa told Glass yesterday.



U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Syria David Ransom shown with newsman Charles Glass who escaped from his captors in West Beirut yesterday. Glass was handed over to the U.S. embassy in Damascus by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa. (Reuters telephoto)

Fired Shin Bet man asks court for redress

A former Shin Bet (General Security Service) operative who claims that he was accused of disciplinary offenses and dismissed from the service after lodging complaints about serious security failures has applied to the High Court for redress.

The man, whose name has not been published, claims that for nearly two years the Shin Bet has absolutely refused to let him hear or see any of the alleged evidence against him for breaches of discipline. Further, he says in his application to the court, he has been denied the opportunity to stand trial and exercise his "elementary right" of self-defence.

The applicant is also seeking the court's help to overturn what he says is the service's refusal to permit a staff committee to organize among the Shin Bet employees. He says it is "cynical demagoguery" on the part of the Shin Bet to claim that such a committee would lay the service open to the evils of strikes. (Itim)

'Flares dropped on camps near Sidon'

SIDON (Reuters). — Six Israeli jets dropped more than 50 flares and set buildings ablaze at Palestinian refugee camps near Sidon yesterday, security sources said.

The planes drew heavy anti-aircraft fire from Palestinians and Moslem militiamen around the port 40 km south of Beirut.

By DAVID LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A kosher restaurant in Beijing and a Jewish studies conference in 1988 for Chinese scholars in Shanghai — these are two prospects that have come into view following a recent visit to China by leaders of the Asia Pacific Jewish Association.

Senior Chinese scholars, however, guided by their Foreign Ministry, rejected the suggestion that a meeting of the Asian Jewish Colloquium's international steering committee be held in Beijing, with scholars from Israel and the West attending. They indicated that this would be too sensitive and premature.

Syria causing water problems

ANALYSIS

Yehuda Litani

Jordan's prime minister, Zeid al-Rifai, is supposed to meet this week with President Hafez Assad and other Syrian leaders to discuss the new Syrian project to divert the sources of the Yarmuk River. The Jordanians have reason to worry, because Syrian diversions of the Yarmuk sources may mean a loss of about 500 million cubic metres of water annually. Jordan is using most of the Yarmuk waters for its agriculture — mainly for growing vegetables — in the north of Jordan and in the Jordan Valley.

A few years ago the Syrians decided to divert the Yarmuk sources. They dug artificial lakes and canals in order to develop agriculture in

their southern areas, and thus to be less dependent on Jordanian vegetables.

Together with the diversion project, the Syrians began building 10 new settlements near the Israeli border in the Golan, up to the town of Daraa. The Syrians intend to populate the new towns with families from the over-populated area of Damascus and with army veterans. Their main target in that area is agricultural development (using the

Yarmuk water for that purpose). But some Israeli experts claim that the Syrians may be using the new towns for military purposes.

The head of the IDF's Engineering Corps, Brig. Gen. Yosef Eyal, said Monday that the Syrian Army has been extremely active in building various fortifications, among them minefields and canals, and using water obstacles as part of their defenses.

Most of the new Syrian settlements are not populated and look like ghost towns. In the last few months, the Syrians have started building a new settlement along the Golan border above the Druse village. (Continued on Page 4)

'No chance to slash Lavi costs'

The chairman of the Israel Aircraft Industries board, Mordechai Hod, said yesterday there was no chance IAI would produce a plan to cut the Lavi's costs by \$200m. a year.

The cabinet on Sunday deferred a decision on building the plane, largely because, as Premier Shamir said, it wanted to give IAI a chance to see if it could cut the costs by the amount.

Asked by *The Jerusalem Post* whether IAI could indeed effect such a cut, Hod said: "No, certainly not."

IAI had already made "a great effort" to cut costs by \$100m. a year, and "this is the contribution we can

make," he said.

Some effort was being made to see if costs could be cut further, but Hod left no doubt that the savings would be marginal at best.

Economists in the Prime Minister's Office and the Defence Ministry doubted whether IAI would even stand by the suggested \$100m. cut, sources said.

The Treasury yesterday rejected all talk of a possible increase in taxes

to finance the Lavi. Deputy Finance Minister Adi Amori said an increase in taxation would mean an end to the renewed economic growth which the country was beginning to experience.

Amori said the proposals to raise top income-tax rates by 2 or 3 per cent or introduce a compulsory loan would harm the economic reforms instituted this year.

Ministry officials also said that even if the cabinet did not halt the Lavi now, the issue would be raised again in a few months, when the project encountered financial difficulties. "By then there will be no (Continued on Page 2, Col. 3)

Rudolf Hess said to have taken his own life

BERLIN (AP). — Rudolf Hess, the last top Nazi from the Hitler era, died after wrapping an electrical cord around his neck, British authorities said yesterday.

Hess died on Monday at age 93 in a British military hospital in West Berlin, about 3 kilometres from Spandau prison where he was serving a life sentence for war crimes.

"Several hours before the suicide, workers had started electrical work there. The workers had access to the prison yesterday," West Germany's ZDF Television network said last night.

Engene Bird, who once was the top-ranking American officer guarding Spandau, said Hess had tried to commit suicide on four other occasions.

British diplomatic spokesman Anderson Purdon said: "A preliminary investigation indicates that Rudolf Hess attempted to take his own life."

"On the afternoon of August 17, Hess, as he was accustomed to do, went, escorted by a prison warder, to sit in a small cottage in the garden of the prison."

"On looking into the cottage a few minutes later, the warder found Hess with an electrical cord around his neck."

"Whether this suicide attempt was the actual cause of death is the subject of a continuing investigation, including a thorough autopsy," Purdon added. (See story page 3).

Kosher restaurant in Beijing?

Other agreements tentatively reached between the APJA delegation and leaders of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences state that:

- Sets of the Encyclopedia Judaica and other Jewish source material will be presented to six leading research and academic libraries in China;
- Video and audio tapes on Jewish topics will be made available for wide distribution;
- Chinese scholars will be invited to attend the Third Asian Jewish

Colloquium in 1989, and to attend other international Jewish conferences, possibly in Israel. Jewish studies scholars, possibly from Israel, will be invited to China;

□ More tourist visas will be granted to Israeli citizens — but still within limitations.

The president of the APJA, Australian tourism tycoon Isi Liebler, and vice-president Sam Lipski say they found "no evidence...of any short-term prospect of a change in the status quo" between Israel and

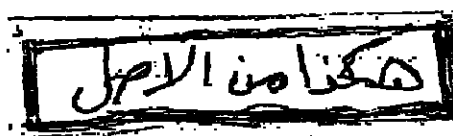
China. They say there is much sensitivity in Beijing "to the climate created by exaggerated speculation" in the Israeli media and by "over-eager Israeli politicians," and that this is "counter-productive."

Liebler and Lipski had apparently hoped to be able to hold a session of their colloquium steering committee in Beijing, following the participation at the second colloquium in Hongkong in March of Chinese scholar and establishment figure Prof. Sidney Shapiro (Sha Boli).

Shapiro lectured at the colloquium on the history of the Jews of Kaifeng, and he has retained a warm relationship with the APJA since then. He is to visit Australia in 1988.

But the APJA leaders were turned down. They are understood to believe that Arab diplomatic pressure on the Chinese Foreign Ministry, and the general waiting mood in Beijing in advance of the 13th Party Congress in October, have led to extreme circumspection on the part of Chinese academics with whom they are in contact.

The most senior among these are Prof. Zhao Fusan, a vice-president (Continued on Page 4)



The weather at major Swissair destinations

18.8.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	17	22	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	17	24	Clear
RUHRIG	17	24	Clear
CHICAGO	21	29	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	15	20	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	17	23	Clear
GENEVA	17	23	Clear
HELSINKI	17	23	Clear
BOMBAY	26	31	Clear
JERUSALEM	23	30	Clear
LONDON	18	24	Cloudy
MADRID	18	24	Cloudy
MONTREAL	19	24	Clear
NEW YORK	24	30	Cloudy
OSLO	15	20	Cloudy
PARIS	18	24	Clear
SAO PAULO	17	23	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	17	23	Cloudy
TOKYO	23	29	Clear
TORONTO	23	29	Clear
VIENNA	15	20	Cloudy
ZURICH	17	22	Sunny

THE WEATHER

Yesterday's	Humidity	Min-Max	Today's
Jerusalem	56	18-28	29
Golan	33	18-30	31
Nahariya	70	25-30	30
Safed	65	16-29	29
Haifa Port	65	24-31	31
Tiberias	33	23-36	37
Nazareth	40	21-30	31
Afula	42	22-33	33
Sharon	42	21-30	31
Tel Aviv	42	23-31	30
B-G Airport	58	23-30	31
Jericho	42	23-37	38
Gaza	57	23-30	30
Beersheba	39	20-33	34
Eilat	23	23-39	40

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

A Jerusalem Rotary Club luncheon will be held at the YMCA, King David St., at 1 p.m. today. Lotte Salzberger, Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, will speak on "The Complexity of the Jerusalem Educational System and its Implications."

Rabbi and Mrs. Sidney Guthman, staying at the Laromne Jerusalem, celebrate the bat mitzva of their granddaughter, Jill Schwartz, at Masada on August 20.

Japan to help fund UN forces in Sinai

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Japan is to contribute funds for the first time to the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai. According to reports from Tokyo, the Japanese government has allocated \$2 million from its 1988 budget for the peacekeeping force.

In the past Tokyo has rejected appeals to assist the MFO, on the grounds that the force, organized by the U.S. following the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, has not operated under a UN umbrella.



President Chaim Herzog (centre), veteran 'Jerusalem Post' employee Issachar Ivas (left) and 'Post' managing editor Ari Rath add soil to the grave of the paper's political correspondent, Mark Segal (Hanoach Guthmann)

The Post's Mark Segal laid to rest

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. - Veteran Jerusalem Post political correspondent Mark Segal was buried in the Kiryat Shaul cemetery yesterday in a funeral attended by President Chaim Herzog, MKs and hundreds of colleagues and friends. Segal, 59, died after a fall, apparently caused by heart failure, in his apartment on Saturday.

In a funeral address, Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi described Segal as warm of heart and of mind. He said that Segal had imbued his work with sensitivity, thoughtfulness and understanding and had refrained from the crudity which is becoming part of our political and newspaper life.

Segal brought dignity, patriotism and a sense of humour to his work and had left a legacy of humanism and culture, Ya'acobi said.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Suspects face other murder charges

Two Palestinians accused in 1986 slaying of al-Masri

By JOEL GREENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Two Palestinians were charged yesterday in the Nablus military court with assassinating Nablus mayor Zafer al-Masri last year on orders from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The men were also charged with three other murders and three attempted murders in Nablus and Jenin. Ahmad Hanani, 31, of Beit Furik, near Nablus, was arrested in May, and Mu'ayid Abdel Samad, 25, of Anabta, near Tulkarm, was arrested in June.

According to the charge sheet against them, the men received orders last year from the PFLP command to kill al-Masri on the steps of the Nablus Municipality as Hanani provided cover. The two escaped in Hanani's car, according to the charges.

The men were also charged with killing Border Policeman Jamil Faris in January 1986, while he was on patrol in Nablus, and with the attempted murder of his partner, Osama Ghannem.

On May 23 this year, the two men attempted to assassinate Jenin Mayor Abdallah Lahouh on orders from the PFLP, according to the charge sheet. They opened fire at his car near the municipality, wounding

Lahouh's driver.

Hanani was charged with the June 1985 murder of an Israeli, Albert Buchris, as he shopped in the Nablus market, and the attempted murder of another Israeli, Uri Ovad, in Jenin.

The two men were charged with the attempted murder of Haim Tan'ami, of Moshav Masu'a, in Nablus in June 1986.

In other developments, a petrol bomb was thrown last night at an Israeli car near the Dehaishe refugee camp south of Bethlehem, but there were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Two members of the Kiryat Arba local council were charged for participating yesterday in a riot by settlers at Dehaishe in June. The names of Tzvi Katzover and Shmuel Ben-Yishai were added to the charge sheet submitted against 12 other Hebron and Kiryat Arba settlers who allegedly rioted and opened fire at homes in the camp.

IDF troops searched the students council office at An-Najah University in Nablus on Monday night and confiscated nationalist literature and PLO flags, military sources said. The sources added that the material included "inflammatory" literature published by the PLO and other illegal Palestinian organizations.

El Al flights back to normal

By JONATHAN KARP
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. - El Al returned to normal operations yesterday as pilots ended their wildcat strike over wages, spokesman Nahman Kliezman said. According to the pilots, no disruptions are expected today.

Yesterday's flight 001 to New York was the last to be affected by Monday's disruptions. The Boeing 747 took off at 12:30 p.m. after being delayed for 12 hours.

Seven of the eight pilots who called in sick on Monday returned to work yesterday, Kliezman said. He added that the only captain not to report for duty was Bezalel Ofer, chairman of the El Al pilots' committee.

As a result of Monday's pilot shortage, El Al had to delay one flight by six hours, transfer Madrid-bound passengers to the Spanish national carrier, Iberia, and combine two flights into one by using the jumbo that was scheduled to fly to New York on Monday night.

In addition, El Al had to charter two European airlines to bring passengers from Brussels and Zurich and then return with those whose flights from Tel Aviv had been cancelled. "That was an expensive proposition," Kliezman said.

Near tragedy averted in Gadna exercise

HAIFA (Itim). - All six members of a Gadna naval group and their instructor were rescued from drowning when their dinghy capsized in a squall in the bay here on Monday. The four teenage girls and two boys, and their 20-year-old instructor, were pulled from the sea by a search party comprising coastal police.

Vigil at Damascus Gate quickly dispersed by police

By ANDY COURT

The demonstration in front of Jerusalem's Damascus Gate yesterday was over almost as soon as it started. But the episode is likely to lead to a suit by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, over the Jerusalem police's ban on demonstrations and vigils in and around the Old City.

At 6 p.m. some 16 people stood silently on the steps outside Damascus Gate, in a vigil organized by the Committee Confronting the Iron Fist.

Demonstrators held signs protesting against the law forbidding meetings with people identified with the PLO, and against the detention of Hassan Jabarin of Umm el-Fahm who is being investigated on what are believed to be charges of meeting with PLO officials in Geneva.

Two police officers appeared immediately and ordered the group to disperse. After a few arguments, the demonstrators rolled up their signs and went home. The incident lasted about two minutes, but the real contest may yet be to come.

Joshua Schoffman, ACRI's legal director, said that it was quite likely that the association would challenge

the police action in court.

Though a silent gathering of 16 people requires no permit, the police can break it up if they believe it is likely to lead to violence or cause a public disturbance, Schoffman said. The question in this case is how long the police can make a blanket claim about the dangers of all protests in a given area, he said.

Ever since the murder of yeshiva student Eli Amedi last November 15, and the violence that followed it, the police have denied permits for demonstrations and vigils in and around the Old City (with the exception of the Western Wall plaza).

"You can say, 'Today's a bad day for a demonstration, hold it tomorrow.' But you can't say, for a long period of time, 'No demonstrations in this large area,'" Schoffman said. "It's unthinkable that this has gone on for nine months."

Jerusalem police chief Yosef Yehuda said yesterday that Damascus Gate was an extremely sensitive area where grenades had been thrown and knifings had occurred. Many Jews and Arabs pass through that area all the time. A few people standing on the steps holding political signs can provoke a riot, he said.

IDF stays away from 'Yellow Time'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The IDF has decided not to patronize *The Yellow Time*, a play based on reports by writer David Grossman on the West Bank.

Chief education officer, Tat-Aluf Nehemia Dagan told Gali Zahal yesterday that taking soldiers to such

a play within the army framework amounted to influencing their response to it.

Last month the Film and Theatre Censorship Board ruled that the play should be limited to audiences aged 18 and over, but the ruling was later rescinded.

LAVI

(Continued from Page One)

alternative but to terminate the project," they said.

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday accused opponents of the Lavi project of defeatism.

Speaking at the Nesher cement factory in Ramle, Sharon said the issue was not just the future of the Lavi but Israel's independence and self-confidence.

"Today it's the Lavi," he said, "tomorrow the Merkava tank and the day after milk, eggs, fruit... we stand to lose everything."

In a partial retraction of his proposal to abolish certain tax rebates to collect funds for the Lavi, Vice Premier Peres yesterday suggested that the money need not come from any one source alone.

Speaking during a tour of Atlit, Peres said, "I won't commit myself in advance on what sources of funds should be tapped for the project. There are many possibilities. I don't accept the Finance Ministry's 'all-or-nothing' stand."

"We shouldn't levy special taxes for the Lavi," he added. "The finance minister named six possible sources of funds. We could take \$25 million from each without it being felt."

He mentioned Minister-without-Portfolio Yigael Hurvitz's proposal

to sell government corporations as one source of funds.

Hurvitz yesterday confirmed the announcement by Peres that Hurvitz had crossed the cabinet floor and was now ready to support the continuation of the Lavi project, under certain conditions.

During a cabinet discussion of the project in June, Hurvitz came out firmly against continuation, on financial grounds.

But yesterday he said in a brief interview that, provided the budget was not exceeded, and provided the Bank of Israel did not have to "print money" to pay for the Lavi, he would favour going ahead with it.

Hurvitz's support for the Lavi was politically impressive but financially ambiguous. The State Budget will remain balanced if revenue is raised for the Lavi by increasing taxes and then transferred to the expenditure side. But in the Treasury's eyes this would still constitute "exceeding the budget framework," since resources would be drawn from the public which would generate inflation when spent, rather than encourage growth.

However, if the supporters of the Lavi are lumped together without differentiating between *carre blanc* advocates and conditional advocates, the possible voting breakdown in the cabinet would be:

TO HALT THE PROJECT

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin
Finance Minister Moshe Nisim
Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi
Energy Minister Moshe Shalev
Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev
Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur
Agriculture Minister Arye Nekuman
Minister-without-Portfolio Ezer Weizman
Education Minister Yitzhak Navon
Tourism (and Justice) Minister Avraham Shalev
Minister-without-Portfolio Yitzhak Peretz
Religious Affairs Minister Zeev Elkin

TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres
Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir
Health Minister Shoshana Arbeli-Almonesi
Minister-without-Portfolio Yigael Hurvitz
Housing Minister David Levy
Industry Minister Ariel Sharon
Transport Minister Haim Corfu
Labour Minister Moshe Katzav
Science Minister Gideon Patz
Minister-without-Portfolio Moshe Aron
Minister-without-Portfolio Yitzhak Moda'i

A 12-12 tie would mean that the Lavi project continues. But the breakdown could change, both before the vote and in light of the draft motions to be put to the cabinet.

(Continued from Page One)

economic cooperation measures including the idea of "joint economic ventures" in third countries. According to sources in Shamir's party, the two did not rule out the idea of Israeli-Romanian ventures in other East Bloc states.

Shamir spoke of possible Israeli-Romanian cooperation over machinery and electronics. Deskelescu stressed agriculture and wood products.

Deskelescu complained of the decline of Israeli tourism to Romania, down from 30,000 in 1981 to 20,000 last year. Shamir blamed the drop on Israel's travel tax and said that tour-

CEAUCESCU

ism increased from 14,000 in 1985 to 1986's 20,000 with the special decrease in travel tax for those flying to Romania.

Israeli officials suggested that Romania could be included as a way-station for Israeli tours to Eastern European destinations, thus boosting tourism to Romania.

When Deskelescu broached the idea of selling Romania Delta cars to Israel, Shamir spoke of the negative trade balance, suggesting that Romania might import Israeli phosphates and industrial products. "But we are ready to try your cars," he added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dangerous diet pills given out by mistake

The Health Ministry is looking for a woman who purchased what she thought were vitamins at the Ha'nevi'im pharmacy in Tel Aviv on Monday. She was mistakenly given diet pills that are dangerous unless taken under medical supervision.

The ministry has asked anyone who purchased vitamins to contact the pharmacy - at 72 King George Street - by phoning 03-286740 or the Tel Aviv district pharmacist at 03-268270. (Itim)

British tourist drowns in Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A 57-year-old British tourist drowned at a beach near here yesterday. The man arrived in Israel two days ago with his wife and son.

Arab crowd attacks soldier

NAZARETH (Itim). - A soldier who stopped to investigate why a group of Arabs had crowded around a vehicle parked at the Bar'ka's crossroads near here at midnight on Monday told the police that he had been cursed and beaten up by the group.

The soldier, who was driving a military vehicle, escaped and drove to the nearby police station to report the incident and the number of the parked car.

Police investigators have apparently ruled out an attempted kidnapping or terrorist attack.

Bnei Brak man killed by lorry

TEL AVIV (Itim). - A 78-year-old man was run over by a lorry and killed yesterday morning in Bnei Brak.

Yosef Levi, a local resident, was hit by a lorry on Rehov Hashomer. He had not used a pedestrian crossing.

The 32-year-old driver, from nearby Yahud, was arrested.

Hanna Senes museum at Wizo school

TEL AVIV. - Wizo plans to establish a museum at its Nahalal High School where Hanna Senes was a pupil.

The school archives have recently yielded considerable material about the World War II heroine, including her letter of application to the school, pictures of her acting in a school play, the script of that play, and her valedictory address when she graduated.



Rabbi Uri Zohar talks with the widow of Shaikha Ophir at her funeral yesterday in Tel Aviv. (M. Daniel/Media)

'The nation loved Shaikha Ophir'

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Leading figures from the worlds of entertainment and politics yesterday paid their last respects to actor and mime Shaikha Ophir, who died on Monday at the age of 58.

Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat recalled that in 1948, when Jerusalem was under siege, Ophir

accompanied convoys taking food and supplies to the capital.

Education Minister Yitzhak Navon said, "The nation loved Shaikha Ophir."

Ophir was buried at the Nahalat Yitzhak cemetery next to the grave of his father-in-law, who was also an entertainer.

Drivers may reject blood test

HAIFA (Itim). - Police may not force drivers who are suspected of being drunk and refuse to submit to a blood test, magistrates' court Judge Reuven Ben-Horin said here yesterday.

He was ruling on a police request to extend the remand of an Acre man who was stopped on Sunday for reckless driving. Police smelled alcohol on his breath and an electronic

device indicated that he was drunk, but the man refused to submit to a test to determine the alcoholic content of his blood.

The judge ordered the man released on NIS 1,000 bail.

Beduin to destroy illegal mosque

RAHAT (Itim). - The Beduin of this Negev township early yesterday evening undertook to demolish an illegally built mosque within the next four days. Throughout the day, some 1,000 police and Border Police had stood ready to intervene should the mood turn violent.

The townspeople's undertaking followed a ruling by Beersheba Magistrates' Court judge, Ruth Avida, that an earlier demolition was legal and could not be overturned by the courts, even though that meant that feelings would be hurt.

At mid-day, Avida arrived to talk to the religious leaders. She then carried on the hearing in the township, finally ruling that the law must be upheld come what may, and saying that the Beduin leaders themselves had accepted her approach.

Shamir invited Deskelescu to Israel "in the near future," an invitation the Romanian premier accepted "in principle."

On the day of Shamir's arrival here, Monday, Ceaulescu delivered a major speech voicing support for an international conference with PLO participation. The speech was reproduced in full yesterday on pages 1, 2 and 3 of the main local papers, which also briefly noted Shamir's arrival on pages 4 or 5.

RABIES. - The Acre veterinary service this week killed 30 stray dogs following reports that several Haifa-area dogs were rabid.

Peres urges: 'Don't leave Soviets out in the cold'

Jerusalem Post Staff

The Soviet Union wants to be involved in the Middle East peace process. Foreign Minister Peres said yesterday. Peres said that since the Soviets were in the region in any case, it would be better if they were admitted into the process rather than left to act outside it.

Peres was speaking during a visit to Atlit and the artists' village Ein Hod near Haifa.

Questioned about recent contacts between Soviet officials and his political adviser, Nimrod Novik, Peres said that some time ago the Russians had promised to open a line of direct communication in August, and they had kept their word.

The Soviets had shown some signs of flexibility, said Peres, and Novik's Russian contact had himself spoken of "creative thinking" about the Middle East and the peace process.

It was possible, the foreign minister indicated, that he might meet his Soviet counterpart in New York next month.

Novik said yesterday he believed that Moscow was agreeable in principle to the idea that an international conference should not impose a Middle East peace solution on Israel.

Novik who met Vladimir Terasov, deputy head of the Middle East section of the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Bonn told reporters: "I think they understand and accept the basic premise... that the conference will have no right or ability to impose a solution, to veto agreements reached by the parties or to intervene in the direct bilateral negotiations unless invited by the mutual consent of the negotiating parties."

He added that the Soviet Union was more optimistic than Israel that Syria would ultimately join the talks. The Soviets also still differed with Israel over who should represent the Palestinians.

New neighbourhood for ultra-Orthodox in north Jerusalem

By ANDY COURT

For The Jerusalem Post
The Jerusalem planning committee this week approved a plan for 500 to 600 apartments designed especially for ultra-Orthodox families in the western part of Neveh Ya'acov.

The apartments will be separate from the existing buildings in Neveh Ya'acov, and a space will be allotted in the religious area for synagogues and ritual baths, according to municipal spokesman Rafi Davara.

The apartments will be of "high standard" and larger than average Israeli apartments, in order to accommodate large families, he said.

Balconies suitable for Succoth booths will be part of each flat. The plan is designed to relieve some of the ultra-Orthodox community's housing problems temporarily while the city continues to try to resolve its dispute with the Housing Ministry over the best location for a large religious neighbourhood.

The ministry wants to build in Mevo Betar, outside the city limits, but municipal officials assert that there is a much more urgent need for ultra-Orthodox housing within the city.

The city wants to build 2,500-3,000 apartments on Ras Amar, about 500 metres south of Pisgat Ze'ev, and believes that if the Housing Ministry builds a religious neighbourhood at Mevo Betar, there will be no money left for the Ras Amar project.

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the sudden death of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

ZVI (Harry) REISMAN

Sonia Reisman - Amiad
Hugh Reisman and family - Rosh Pina
Sharon Azani and family - Amiad
and all at Kibbutz Amiad

For particulars, please phone Kibbutz Amiad, 06-933511.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother

ELSA LITTEN

nee Loewy

Her daughters: Erika Litten, Lilo Reis, Ilse, and Achim Rosenberg-Warde
Grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchild

The funeral will take place on Thursday, August 20, at 5 p.m. at Sde Warburg.

In memory of a great Jewish leader and friend

YONA BOGALA

Howard Lenhoff
Immediate Past President of the
American Association for
Ethiopian Jews

Critics vow to block sale of U.S. arms to Saudis

Post Staff and agencies
WASHINGTON. — Congressional critics say they would move immediately to block a new \$1 billion Saudi arms sale that President Reagan is considering to buttress U.S. cooperation with the Gulf ally.

Reagan's spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, said that the administration was considering resubmission to Congress of a proposal to sell sophisticated F-15 planes and anti-tank missiles to Saudi Arabia, but had not decided whether to send it in one big package.

Fitzwater said the "timing and sequence" of the Reagan request would be "dictated by the calendar of the Congress," which is on a summer recess.

A senator who led the successful opposition to Reagan's last Saudi arms sale proposal said yesterday he would immediately introduce a resolution in Congress to block this one.

"I think it would be very unwise (for Reagan) to do something so divisive," said Sen. Dennis DeConcini, an Arizona Democrat.

Opponents fought a sale in June largely on the argument that Saudi Arabia had refused to intercept the Iraqi plane that fired two missiles at the U.S. frigate Stark, killing 37 sailors.

DeConcini said he thought congressional opposition would be even greater now because of Saudi Arabia's and Kuwait's reported informal refusal to allow U.S. minesweeping helicopters for U.S. convoys in the Gulf to land in their territory.

"I think if anything the opposition might be more because of the recalcitrance of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to let us have space to land our planes when we're there protecting their oil," the senator said.

But the overriding opposition in Congress to the Saudi sales comes from a large number of legislators who agree with Israel that sophisticated weapons sold to Arab nations might eventually be used against Israel.

Republican Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon told NBC News "Until they'll bargain (a peace agreement) with Israel, we should not be giving them sophisticated weapons."

Under U.S. law, any major U.S. arms sale must be submitted to Congress.

Reagan submitted and then withdrew under heavy opposition in June a proposal to sell Saudi Arabia 1,600 Maverick anti-tank missiles worth \$360m.

Last year Reagan withdrew a separate proposal to sell the Saudis

12 F-15 jet fighter planes worth \$500m., plus other equipment.

Fitzwater said that administration officials had consulted with several senators about resubmitting those sales to Congress either as a package or in pieces.

He said there was no connection with U.S. warship protection of Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf, and specifically denied there was a deal to allow U.S. planes to land in Saudi territory in return for a new effort to win Congress' approval of the sales.

Political sources in Israel expressed "surprise" yesterday that the U.S. was offering such advanced aircraft to Saudi Arabia while the Saudis were denying landing rights to U.S. combat aircraft.

"We are against and we are worried about any arms sales to countries who are in a state of war with Israel," said a Foreign Ministry official in Jerusalem, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Washington knows our position very well."

The official said Israel's charge d'affaires in Washington, Oded Eiran, met recently with an official in the U.S. State Department and conveyed the Israeli position.

"But we are not embarking on any intensive campaign because this is at such a preliminary stage so far," the official said.



Rudolf Hess's son Wolf-Rüdiger Hess (right) and his lawyer Alfred Seidl leave the gates of Spandau prison yesterday after an unsuccessful attempt to gain entrance. (Reuters)

Spandau to be demolished British soldiers guard Hess's body

WEST BERLIN. — British troops yesterday guarded the body of Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess as allied military authorities prepared to fly it to West Germany for burial, possibly in a family grave.

Hess's son Wolf-Rüdiger flew to West Berlin and went to the Spandau prison, apparently aiming to speak to officials. But he drove off, looking angry, after waiting about five minutes.

The British Embassy in Bonn said a doctor was flying to West Berlin to carry out an autopsy on Hess, who died in the British military hospital Monday soon after being transferred from Spandau, where he spent the past 40 years.

The body would be flown in an allied military aircraft to Bavaria and handed over to the family by agreement of the Soviet, U.S., British and French authorities who guarded him in his captivity. The transfer was expected last night or today.

Troops of the four World War Two powers continued yesterday to guard the 19th century prison where for 21 years Hess was the only prisoner. U.S. soldiers manned the watchtowers and troops of the three other powers patrolled inside.

Diplomatic sources said the sentries would be withdrawn within a week before the jail was demolished to avert any danger of it becoming a neo-Nazi shrine. The site is expected to be used for a new shopping centre for Britain's 4,000 troops here.

Meanwhile, Western sources in Berlin said the Soviet Union insisted on incorrectly stating that Hess had died in prison in an apparent attempt to show that Moscow and the three Western allies had full joint custody of Hess until his death.

In Frankfurt, police were investigating the firebombing of a U.S. Army truck and two cars belonging to U.S. servicemen. The attacks followed federal officials' warnings of possible rightist extremist violence following the death, but there was no indication of any connection between the attacks and the death.

The mayor of the Bavarian village of Wunsiedel said Hess's son had asked two years ago that the former Nazi leader be buried with his parents and brother in a graveyard there. It was not clear if the request would be granted.

The mayor expressed fears the grave would become a place of "pilgrimage" for Nazi sympathisers.

Monday night about six neo-Nazis shouted fascist slogans outside Spandau and about 20 others kept a candle-lit vigil into the night.

Monday night in Hamburg a group of neo-Nazis carrying banners proclaiming Hess a martyr of peace, marched to the British mission and demanded to see the consul but the official refused to see the demonstrators.

In Hanover, neo-Nazis sprayed "Rudolf Hess died for you" on the wall of the Lower Saxony state parliament.

The Netherlands now holds the Western world's last two Nazi war criminals that have been in jail since World War II, and it's probable they'll die as prisoners just like Hess.

German Franz Fischer, 86, and Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 78, were arrested in 1945 by allied troops and are serving life prison terms for their parts in the deportation to the Nazi death camps of tens of thousands of Dutch Jews.

Monday's death of Hess may spark calls for the release for humanitarian reasons of Fischer and aus der Fuenten, says Justice Ministry spokeswoman Toos Faber.

But "there is no intention, nor has there been for many years" to free the two, Faber said in an interview in Amsterdam.

Meanwhile, the director of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem said yesterday that Hess was the last Nazi leader who symbolized the Third Reich.

Yitzhak Arad said Hess's death signified "the passing of the last of the leaders who created the Nazi Germany with all the atrocities it had brought to the world and to us, the Jewish people."

Arad said he justified the Soviets in their refusal to release Hess from prison. (AP, Reuters)

Little girl miraculous survivor of air disaster

ROMULUS, Michigan (AP). — A 4-year-old girl was the miraculous survivor of the nation's second deadliest air disaster, and reports surfaced of repeated engine malfunctions in the Northwest Airlines jetliner that crashed Sunday night, killing up to 162 people.

Cecilia Cichan, who was listed in critical condition yesterday with third-degree burns over 29 per cent of her body, was identified as a passenger on Flight 255 by her grandfather, who recognized her chipped tooth and purple nail polish, officials said.

"Her mother shielded her, and that is what saved her," said the grandfather, Anthony Cichan of Pennsylvania.

The girl's parents and 6-year-old brother were killed in Sunday night's crash just after takeoff from Detroit Metropolitan Airport on a flight to Phoenix and suburban Los Angeles.

Authorities have yet to establish an official death count in the crash of the McDonnell Douglas MD-80, which occurred in clear weather.

A team of 100 investigators, including experts from the federal government and the companies that made the plane and engines, walked the flight path and examined the wreckage.

Federal Aviation Administration records showed the plane had engine failures on takeoff twice in 1986 and 1985. As recently as January 1987, the plane was forced to return to the airport in Memphis, Tennessee, after takeoff because of low oil pressure, said Bobby Mardis of the FAA's aeronautics centre in Oklahoma City.

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Surviving septuplets fighting for their lives

LIVERPOOL (Reuters). — A third of the septuplets born to a 27-year-old woman died yesterday and the four others were fighting for their lives, doctors at Liverpool Maternity Hospital said.

The four girls and three boys together weighed only four kilos when delivered by caesarean section on Saturday.

A son, Liam, the first born and the biggest at 0.74 kg, died yesterday morning. His sister died on Monday.

The fourth of the seven babies to be born, a son weighing 0.45 kg, died within half an hour of birth.

A hospital spokesman said the remaining four babies were very sick and were still breathing with the help of ventilators in the neo-natal intensive care unit.

U.S. to allow Aids vaccine test on humans

WASHINGTON (AFP). — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval for a Connecticut firm to conduct limited testing of a potential Aids vaccine on humans, according to published reports.

Microgenex Inc. of West Haven, Connecticut, will do the limited tests, the *Washington Drug Letter* and the *New Haven Register* reported. According to the reports, testing will be conducted at the National Institutes of Health's institute for allergy and infectious diseases in Bethesda, Maryland.

The *Washington Drug Letter*, a trade newsletter, said the trial vaccine was made from non-infective envelope proteins of the Aids virus instead of from the virus itself.

South Africa strike talks collapse

JOHANNESBURG (AP). — Talks between union leaders and mine management on how to reduce violence in the 9-day-old black miners' strike collapsed yesterday.

"With considerable regret, I have to tell you we failed to reach agreement," Bobby Godsell, chief negotiator for the Anglo American Corp., South Africa's largest mining company, told reporters.

Anglo representatives and the National Union of Mineworkers had conferred for more than three hours Monday and 90 minutes yesterday before giving up their efforts to agree on steps to curb strike-related violence.

The union had no immediate comment on the collapse of the talks, but Godsell said union leaders apparently decided to abandon the negotiations when they received a report that some miners had been shot at during the day at the President Steyn gold mine, owned by Anglo, in the Orange Free State.

Moscow said changing position on emigration

MOSCOW (Reuters). — A majority of Soviet citizens who have been refused the right to emigrate on grounds that they knew state secrets and have appealed against the decision are now being allowed to leave, Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin said yesterday.

He told a news conference the appeals were being reviewed by the Supreme Soviet (parliament) and at lower levels.

He could not supply figures for the number of cases reviewed to date but said at its last meeting the Supreme Soviet reviewed 12 such exit requests and all were granted.

Yuri Kashlev, who heads the Soviet delegation to the European Security Conference in Vienna, said the issue affected about 15 U.S.-Soviet marriages in which the Soviet partner had been refused permission to leave on state secrets grounds.

6 Tunisian militants confess to bombings

TUNIS (Reuters). — Six young Tunisian Islamic militants have confessed on television to planting hotel bombs which injured 12 British and Italian tourists and a Tunisian.

The six, aged between 25 and 30, appeared Monday night and said they belonged to the Islamic Tendency Movement, a fundamentalist opposition group.

Iran attacks Liberian tanker

MANAMA, Bahrain. — A Liberian-flag chemical tanker was hit by rocket-propelled grenades and machine gun fire as it sailed through the outer straits of Hormuz yesterday in what shipping sources said was the first known attack on a vessel in that area.

There was no immediate explanation for the attack, but the sources said speedboat-borne Iranian commandos were apparently responsible. The boats have been used extensively by Iran for attacks on vessels inside the Persian Gulf.

Sources said there were no reported casualties aboard the *Oso Sierra*, a 20,578-ton tanker, which continued into the Gulf of Oman and headed for the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah, 30 miles to the south.

In London, Lloyds shipping intelligence unit said the *Oso Sierra* was "attacked by two missiles," one of which hit the ship while the other missed.

The report, which said two gunboats were involved, apparently used the term "missiles" to refer to the shoulder-fired RPG rockets.

Meanwhile, an Iranian warship shadowed the U.S. helicopter carrier *Guadalcanal* as a mine was detonated near tankers anchored off Kuwait waiting to join an American-protected convoy.

The 11,000-ton carrier, transporting specialist minesweeping helicopters and escorted by two U.S. warships, appeared to be scouting the route to be taken by the convoy from Kuwait through the Gulf, shipping sources said.

An Iranian ship watched the *Guadalcanal* — a British warship was also nearby — and fired a red flare to warn a helicopter carrying photographers to keep away.

In Kuwait, the Defence Ministry said a mine was found and detonated yesterday as a convoy of four reflagged Kuwaiti tankers prepared to leave on a return 550-mile dash down the Gulf.

The tankers will be shepherded by American warships and preceded by the *Guadalcanal*'s Sea Stallion helicopters probing for mines.

In Jeddah, U.S. representative Stephen Solaz warned Iran that the U.S. would retaliate if one of its

ships in the Gulf were attacked while escorting Kuwaiti-owned tankers flying the U.S. flag.

In London, Britain said yesterday warships protecting British shipping in the Gulf could give support to U.S. vessels in times of danger.

"We are always ready to consider assisting our allies — whether that assistance would be given or what it would be depends on the circumstances," said Foreign Office minister David Mellor.

And in Rome, a senior Italian politician urged the government yesterday to drop its refusal to send minesweepers to the Gulf.

Delio Giacometti, chairman of the Senate (Upper House) Defence Committee and a member of the dominant Christian Democrat party, told Reuters that Italy had to show solidarity with France and Britain, which had dispatched minesweepers.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency Tass on Monday charged the U.S. with direct military interference "on an unprecedented scale" in the Gulf. (AP, AFP, Reuters)

S. Korean wildcat strike ends

SEOUL (AP). — About 20,000 workers of South Korea's largest business group ended a wildcat strike yesterday after the government said it would back their demands for wage hikes and other benefits.

Vice Labour Minister Han In Hee proposed a three-point mediation plan to end the protest at Ulsan, an industrial city on the southern tip of the Korean peninsula.

Han's compromise marked the first government intervention in the current labour disturbances that have shaken hundreds of industrial plants propping up South Korea's export-oriented economy.

Facing 20,000 striking workers of the Hyundai business group at a stadium outside Ulsan, Han said the government would do its best to let the workers get pay raises by September 1.

Han also promised to try to persuade Hyundai's management to recognize a newly formed labour alliance among the group's six subsidiary companies in the Ulsan area, a key demand of the striking workers.

In South Korea, a statement of support from the government is a virtual guarantee that the demands will be met.

'Vienna post for 'Time' editor'

NEW YORK (AP). — Henry Grunwald has resigned as editor-in-chief of Time Inc. nearly five months earlier than expected, the company announced Monday, and published reports say he is expected to be named ambassador to Austria.

Time had announced in April that Grunwald, who is Jewish, would step down at the end of the year, when he reached the mandatory retirement age of 65.

But in the announcement, Time said Grunwald resigned earlier "in order to prepare for post-retirement activities."

The *Washington Post* and *The New York Times* reported in their editions yesterday that Grunwald would be named ambassador to Austria.

The newspapers said Grunwald was expected to replace Ronald Lauder, a former ex-ecutive vice-president of Estee Lauder Inc.

The *Times* said Lauder planned to vacate the post so he can run for the U.S. Senate seat now occupied by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the New York Democrat who is up for reelection next year.

Grunwald was born in Vienna in

1922 and came to the U.S. in 1940. He fled Austria at age 17 to escape Nazi persecution, the *Times* said.

Jason McManus, 53, who had been designated in April to succeed Grunwald, has taken over as editor, the company said.

Iлона Henry adds from Vienna that Austrian officials would not comment on the report.

But Lauder said "I am very happy that the State Department is deciding with such efficiency upon my successor. If Henry Grunwald gets appointed, this is an upgrading of the post."

Israelis dominant among hawkers on streets of Tokyo

By GRAHAM EARNSHAW

TOKYO (Reuters). — Gary, a young New Zealander, glances warily at a police box 100 metres away and then down at the aluminium prints he has spread out on the pavement in central Tokyo. "I've had to move twice this evening already, and I'm pushing my luck a bit here," he says.

Nina, a young Israeli, stands under a railway bridge in the fashionable Tokyo shopping district of Ginza and offers the same aluminium prints to commuters hurrying past. She is also keeping an eye out for police, and for gangsters known as Yakuza who sometimes demand kickbacks.

With Japan a front-runner for the title of the world's most expensive country, many foreign tourists and even some foreign residents are becoming street vendors to make enough money to get by.

But unlicensed street vendors are illegal in Japan, and a police spokesman in Tokyo said he had never heard of a foreigner applying for a permit.

"It's so expensive in Japan," says Nina, 25, who like most of the street peddlars declined to give her full name or her home town.

"Many budget travellers in Japan get hold of some of these pictures and take them out to sell to make enough money to see them through here," the young Israeli adds.

The pictures sell for 1,500 yen (\$10) each and on a good day, a seller can make as much as 50,000 yen (\$350). On a bad day, he may make nothing at all.

"More and more sellers are not just travellers passing through but residents trying to make ends meet," notes Bruce from Sydney, Australia, an array of jewelry and artifacts from Zaire spread out before him.

"There's no way you can make real money, just enough to live on," he complains.

There are no official figures on the number of foreign hawkers in Japan, but an Austrian traveller doing a brisk trade in garishly-coloured surfing shorts bought in Bali, estimates that there are perhaps 200-250 working the Tokyo area alone.

Almost all the vendors sell the multi-coloured aluminium prints of yachts, pandas, pretty girls and rustic scenes, made in England and destined for suburban Japanese living room walls.

"They're mostly sold by Israelis here," says Stephen Donne, a teacher from Guildford in England who is trying, with little success so far, to move fake French designer polo shirts he bought in Hong Kong.

"The Israeli travellers have a tough time in this country. They can't get proper jobs, but they seem to have a way of buying a whole load of these aluminium prints very cheap," he adds.



An Australian girl sells her wares spread out on the pavement at the fashionable Omotesando Street in Tokyo. (Reuters)

The Yakuza gangsters are probably the main hazard, both for foreign and Japanese street sellers.

"Sometimes the Yakuza come and nicely tell you to pack up and sometimes they come not nicely and tell

you to pack up," Nina confided. "Some people pay to keep them away, but I just leave. I'm only here a couple of months."

"The Yakuza are a big problem," agreed Eri, another Israeli working his pitch outside a disco in the entertainment district of Roppongi. "They want money or they beat you. Some vendors do pay the Yakuza protection money."

"The pay-off depends on the place," says Casey Davis from southern California, who is having a hard time interesting Japanese shoppers in his Nepalese silk trousers and Indian Hindu calendars.

"If you've got a really good spot it could be as much as 10,000 yen (\$70) for one night," he says.

Another problem is territorial disputes between hawkers trying to hold on to choice positions.

There is a lot of competition. On a recent evening there were six people selling the aluminium prints in Roppongi — four Israelis and two Iranians.

"You have many enemies when you sell things in Japan," said the surfing shorts vendor, Gernot from Linz.

He's making more than enough to live on, but has to work hard to do so. "On a normal day, I start work about 10 or 11 a.m. in the morning and finish around 1 a.m. It doesn't leave much time for seeing Japan," he concludes sadly.

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Hill's visit demonstrated who's in charge — Shamir

By DAVID MAKOVSKY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The U.S. continues to favour the exploration of an international Middle East peace conference, despite reports from Israel that indicate that U.S. emissary Charles Hill is returning to Washington with alternatives to such a parley.

While no great developments were expected from Hill's recent visit to Israel, U.S. official sources say the trip should be viewed as confirming for America that Prime Minister Shamir is in charge until the next Israeli election. In other words, the U.S. sees no prospects for break-

ing the Middle East deadlock. In its first official characterization of the Hill visit, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley went out of her way to say, "We understand the importance of working with a unified Israeli government as we proceed to move the peace process forward."

Oakley also said Hill did not bring to Israel "any new ideas or initiatives." She said the U.S. view that favours exploring the possibilities of an international Middle East peace conference remains "unchanged."

Oakley quoted excerpts from Secretary of State Shultz's press conference on this issue a few weeks ago, saying an "international confer-

ence in and of itself is of no interest to the U.S. The way to go is through direct negotiations. If there is some way to construct an international conference that meets the results we are seeking, we are willing to examine that possibility."

She declined to discuss questions concerning "alternatives" to an international conference. Shamir has proposed an alternative regional parley involving U.S. participation and barring the Soviet Union, and created the impression that the U.S. might reconsider its views.

Administration officials say they do not think Jordan will accept the Shamir approach.

Yet U.S. officials say that the Hill visit should be seen as the most visible diplomatic signal that the U.S. wishes to work with both parties in Israel on the peace process. They say that they wish to correct the impression that the U.S. is tacitly working with Foreign Minister Peres and neglecting Shamir.

The sources date this new approach to May 11, when the Israeli cabinet failed to endorse Peres's plan for participation in an international peace conference. They say this theme was reinforced last month when Shultz delivered a speech to Hadassah in Baltimore and emphasized the need to work with both sides of the Israeli political spectrum

in the cause of peace.

It seems to be recognized here that many people, including President Reagan, have underestimated Shamir's political skills.

This does not mean of course that the U.S. is accepting Shamir's view of peace. On the contrary, Shultz's speech contained thinly veiled attacks on the Likud. Shultz said that the process is "beset by partisanship" and that there is a "demographic clock" working against Israel.

Yet U.S. officials say they now recognize that Shamir cannot be circumvented, and the visit of Shultz's trusted aide Charles Hill should be seen as evidence of that.



An elderly woman has her pulse taken by a bystander moments after being hit by a car on Jerusalem's Rehov Yehzekel yesterday. Three people have been killed on that road recently. The woman was not seriously hurt. (Elihu Harati)

Vera Lynn and the Allies as seen through Moscow's eyes

By ANDREW WILSON

It was a surprise to hear the voice of Vera Lynn in Moscow last weekend, and singing to her old audience of homesick British soldiers too.

It was a film called *And Nothing More*, shown unannounced for a couple of days at a little cinema near the Foreign Ministry.

The strange title obscures the fact that though the film was formally a documentary about relations between Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt, it was, more concretely, about the war efforts of Russia's Western Allies.

Normally Soviet films and history make only a passing reference to the war of the other Allies. It is as if the Soviet Union defeated the Axis single-handed. But here was a Soviet

cinema showing dramatic Western newsreel pictures of the kind that have gratified the nostalgia of British (and American) television audiences for decades.

There was Coventry the day after the "Baedeker" raid, and London ablaze in the Blitz; Spitfires blasting Messerschmitts; Monty and Alex in North Africa; the landings on D-day, and American convoys blazing in the Ardennes.

Of course, it was not without comment, nor without telling glimpses of less auspicious moments. Chamberlain landing from Munich was allowed to say his whole "Peace in our time" piece (with Russian subtitles), and there was Mass being said in the bowels of the Maginot Line.

Churchill was allowed two memorable quotes — but not "On the

beaches" or "Blood, sweat and tears." The first was his celebrated pre-war speech about Communism threatening Europe. (The film, by chance, lit on a bevy of happy Soviet milkmaids.) The second was when he acknowledged that the Russians had broken the spirit of the German Army.

And there were generous references too — at least to Britain — as the commentary told of the convoys that braved "the most dangerous route of all" bringing supplies round the North Cape, and the camera moved slowly over the graves of British sailors near Murmansk.

A striking omission was the absence of any beligerent treatment of Japan, described as now being "the first country to see the twenty-first century." Why? Perhaps because

Japan wasn't really Russia's war.

Nor was there any shot of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which are generally used to point to both the horror of nuclear weapons and American cold-bloodedness.

But the audience did see Truman (after shots of Roosevelt's funeral) seeming to tell Stalin, at Potsdam, about America's possession of a terrible new weapon, and Stalin not appearing to understand.

Stalin is shown throughout as the wise father, solid as a rock. (It could hardly be otherwise, given that the newsreels were shot by obedient cinematographers.)

But the commentary nicely reveals the true heroes of the war by quoting a German Intelligence report that the Russian people were in

no shape to withstand an occupation after Stalin "had shot all their best generals."

The film, consisting wholly of montage, commentary, and skilfully edited music, comes from the ever inventive Leningrad studios.

If and when it is shown in the West, which seems intended, it can hardly fail to be hailed for what it does with workaday newsreels by slowing the motion or freezing the frames.

The packed audience consisted largely of intellectuals and cinema people, who had somehow heard the film was on. I asked one young Russian what had struck him most. He said: "What they left out. There was no propaganda. And, of course, I was seeing nearly all these things for the first time."

(London Observer Service)

Test-tube baby born to Upper Nazareth couple

HAIFA (Item). — Rothschild Hospital's first test tube baby was born here yesterday to an Upper Nazareth couple, Aviva and Yitzhak Solomowitz. The 3.7-kg baby girl was delivered

by Caesarean section. Solomowitz, 30, had tried unsuccessfully for five years to become pregnant before undergoing *in vitro* fertilization. Mother and baby are doing well.

BREAD. — The South Korean Broadcasting Authority is to screen *Bread*, Israel Television's drama about unemployment in a development town, which last year won the Italian prize in a European Broadcasting Union competition.

Protest in Edinburgh over 'Perdition'

By DAVID HOROVITZ

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON. — Jim Allen, whose controversial anti-Zionist play *Perdition* finally received its premiere at the Edinburgh Festival on Monday night, said yesterday that he was "satisfied that it has been given a reading," but would not be "really content until we get a full production."

Some 100 Jewish demonstrators, many based in from Glasgow and London, staged a peaceful protest outside the Royal Lyceum Studio during the performance, holding placards with messages such as "It's history Jim — but not as we know it." Some demonstrators wore yellow stars pinned to their chests.

One of the protest's organizers, Paul Robinson of the Union of Jewish Students, said that he was "disappointed that the play has been produced," but added that there was no question of a Zionist lobby trying to block its performance.

Allen and director Ken Loach have repeatedly charged that a "sinister Zionist lobby" forced London's Royal Court Theatre to drop *Perdition* just two days before its scheduled opening last January, and prevented other venues from staging it as well.

Its Edinburgh presenter, Tom McGrath, charged yesterday that the pressure on him to cancel *Perdition*

at the Lyceum had been "so great that I had to stop answering my telephone."

The play, essentially a court-room drama which alleges that Zionist leaders collaborated with the Nazis in sending Hungarian Jewry to the concentration camps, appeared to leave its audience with mixed feelings.

Some came out of the theatre adamant that it was a good play, and that it deserved to be staged, while others said that they had found it boring.

A BBC critic felt that, once the central allegation of collaboration had been made, the play became repetitive, but she still believed it was right that she had been given the chance to judge the play's merits for herself. *The Times* reviewer found the play "irresistible," and added:

"I am not qualified to pass judgement on the accuracy of Mr. Allen's research, but the lawyers [in the play] invite the audience to be the jury... The evidence points more to bad judgement or perhaps an inability to comprehend the full horror of the Nazi machine than to anything more sinister."

Allen said yesterday that he had written *Perdition* to "set the record straight. I had accepted the Hollywood *Exodus* version of events, and then I read of this other story. I researched it and became obsessed with it, and I felt that it ought to be the subject of debate."

Streetcar gift to Israel Museum

An electric streetcar named Doris is soon to start plying between the gates of the Israel Museum and the entrance, by courtesy of Haim (Scottie) and Doris Morrison, who have given it to mark their recent 50th wedding anniversary.

The Morrisesons, who head respectively the United Israel Appeal in England and that country's Friends

of the Israel Museum, celebrated their anniversary with a party in the courtyard of the Rockefeller Museum on Monday night, offering their guests — who included President Herzog, Foreign Minister Peres, Education Minister Navon and several former ambassadors to the Court of St. James's — a traditional supper of fish and chips.

CHINA

(Continued from Page One)

of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and director of its Institute of World Religions, and Dr. Li Shenzi, also an academy vice-president and director of its Institute of American Studies.

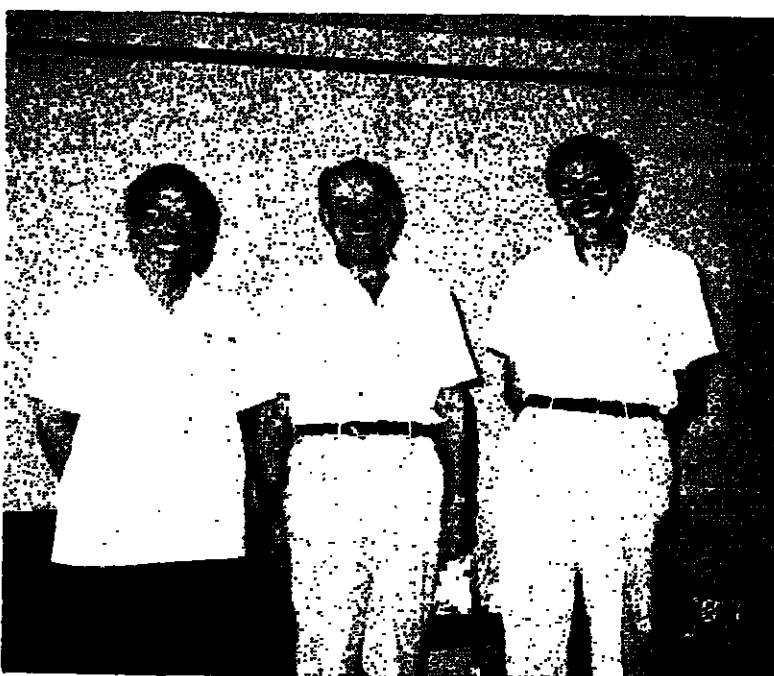
Zhao, who is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee and considered a ranking cultural-ideological figure, told the APJA men that there are some 20 scholars throughout China involved one way or another with Jewish studies. Their greatest problem was a dearth of source material, he said. The academy had recently translated Martin Buber's *I and Thou* and Abba Eban's *My People* into Chinese.

Zhao agreed with the APJA men that collections of basic Jewish resource works, especially in philosophy, poetry and archeology, would be distributed to the Academy of Social Sciences' own documentation centre, to the Chinese National Library, to Beijing University, to Fudan University in Shanghai, to the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and to the Nanking Theological Seminary.

(Continued from Page One)

lage of Majdal-Shams, which they are calling the "The New Majdal-Shams." Israeli experts say that the Syrians have failed to populate the new settlements because many of those who were asked to settle there (including Syrian Army veterans) refused to do so.

Following an Israel Television report on Syrian development activity in the south and the Golan Heights a month ago, the Egyptian press attacked Syria, saying that their



Isi J. Liebler (centre) at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences with two of its vice presidents, Prof. Zhao Fusan (left) and Prof. Li Shenzi.

He conceded that the level of Jewish studies research was not high, but singled out for special mention Prof. Hsu Ding Xin, an Old Testa-

ment scholar at the Nanking Seminary and a pupil of the late Dr. J.F. Li, who graduated from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the 1930s.

SYRIANS

activity was at the expense of the Jordanians.

The Jordanians are offering the Syrians a new joint development project: the building of a dam on the Yarmuk River at Makarem, east of the Israel-Jordan-Syria border. The new dam, the Jordanians say, will enable the two countries to share the waters of the Yarmuk.

It does not seem now that the

Syrians will agree to the Jordanian proposal despite the improved relations between the two countries. The Syrians have a similar problem on their northern borders with Turkey, where the Turks are building a dam on the Euphrates. And the Turks are not willing to share the waters of the Euphrates with Syria.

Last month, the chairman of the Jordanian Water Authority and the

chairman of the Jordan Valley Authority resigned their posts. Israeli experts say the resignations were connected with the Yarmuk project.

Jordan cannot force Syria to stop the new project, but it will do its utmost to persuade the Syrians to share the waters more equitably. The Syrian project has been giving Jordan's economic planners sleepless nights. Unless Rifai can bring about a change of heart in Damascus, the already troubled Jordanian economy faces a bleak future.

Liebler was told by an authoritative source that there was no problem concerning visas for Israeli tourists provided that they constituted no more than 30-40 per cent of a tour group.

There has been a fall-off recently in the number of visas granted to Israelis seeking to tour China.

However, racial arithmetic throws doubt on the virtue of a costly constitutional court case. Justice Minister Edisson Zvobgo has commented that whites are "over-represented by 900 per cent" — meaning there are 89.2 times as many black voters on the "common" voters roll as there are on the white roll — roughly 36,250 voters per common roll constituency and 1,625 per white constituency.

(London Observer Service)

Partridge has said that the CAZ is "taking legal advice" over the issue. Even if the black-dominated caucus nominates people from the other three racial groups to replace the elected whites, Partridge argues, the unseating of the whites will result in the 32,500-strong Coloured and Asian electorate being "disenfranchised" by having had no part in the democratic process of putting people into Parliament.

But more was to follow. Earlier this month the House Speaker announced that two MPs of the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe (CAZ), the descendant of the

(London Observer Service)

Zhao also welcomed the APJA men's readiness to help towards arranging a conference of Chinese scholars of Jewish studies, to be held in Shanghai next year. One or two outstanding Jewish-studies scholars from the West would attend this conference, along with some of the Chinese academics active in the field.

While the participation thus obviously would not be large, Zhao felt the conference could be an important beginning for a cultural dialogue.

To the surprise of the two Jewish leaders, it was Zhao who raised the idea of a kosher facility in Beijing. He said it could serve as a tangible presence of Jewish ethnic culture. Liebler and Lipski accordingly began discussing the project with the Sheraton Great Wall Hotel, which is a favourite of Western businessmen in Beijing.

Liebler was told by an authoritative source that there was no problem concerning visas for Israeli tourists provided that they constituted no more than 30-40 per cent of a tour group.

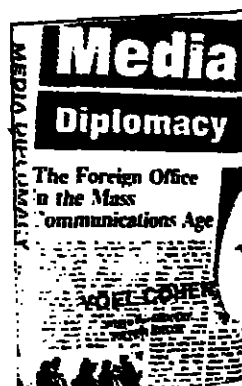
There has been a fall-off recently in the number of visas granted to Israelis seeking to tour China.

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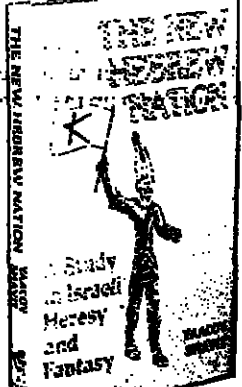
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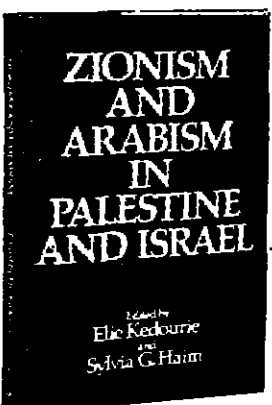
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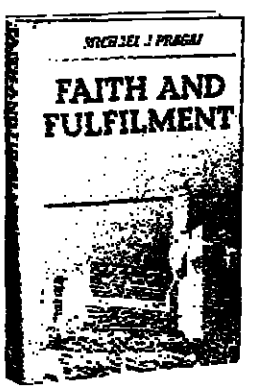
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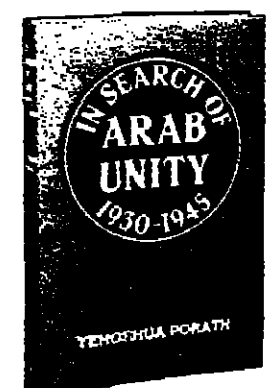
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WITH WESTERN attention riveted on growing tension in the Gulf region, the Soviet Union has been quietly courting Iran in moves aimed at improving its standing in the region, Arab and Western diplomats in Moscow say.

The diplomats say Moscow's skilful diplomacy in recent weeks has given the Soviet Union enhanced credibility among Gulf Arab states as a potential future mediator between Iran and Iraq in their seven-year-old conflict.

Such a role would boost Soviet prestige in the strategic region, where it has already seized the diplomatic advantage from the U.S., according to the sources.

"The Soviet Union is trying to position itself to play a constructive role if and when a real opportunity arises to solve the conflict between Iran and Iraq," an Arab diplomatic source said.

He cited an agreement announced last week by Moscow and Tehran to cooperate on large-scale economic projects and to deepen bilateral relations, adding: "The Soviets have already positioned themselves as the sole mediator at this point."

The economic cooperation accord was forged despite Moscow's role as Iraq's major arms supplier and its protection of Kuwaiti oil against Iranian attack, and despite Iranian aid to Moslem rebels fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

Although no contracts have yet been signed, the accord could assume strategic significance if it brought increased Soviet access to the Gulf via proposed rail links with Iran.

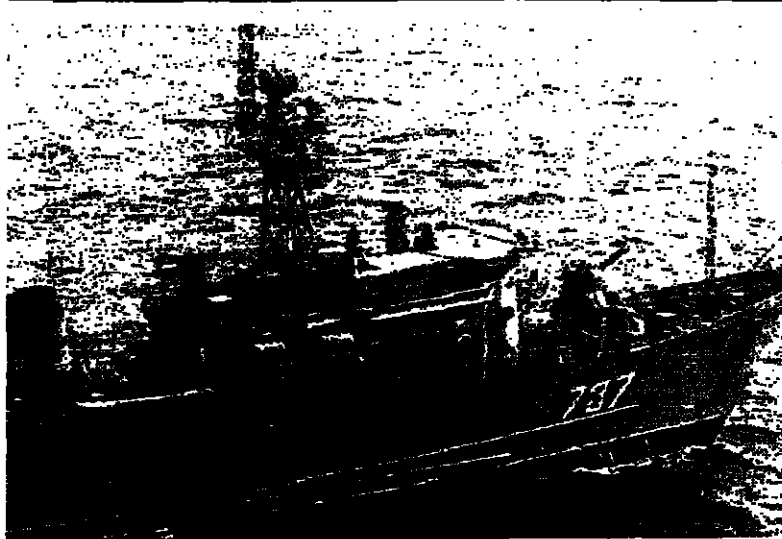
Western diplomats said it was too early to judge the importance of the accord, announced after Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov visited Tehran and Baghdad.

"Vorontsov's trip was a way of showing the U.S. that Moscow had better relations with both sides," one Western envoy commented.

Diplomats say Gulf states view Moscow's moves toward improving relations with Iran while continuing to support Iraq as a positive development which could create new avenues for dialogue with Tehran's Islamic government.

Soviets seek profit from Gulf imbroglio

Mary Ellen Bortin/Moscow



A Soviet warship cruises off Fujairah, Oman, in the Persian Gulf. (AFP)

"If the Soviets are smart enough to maintain relations with both countries, they would have leverage in stopping the war," an Arab diplomatic source said. "They would gain big credibility with other Gulf countries if they succeeded."

He said that despite reservations among the Gulf's rich oil-producing states about increased Soviet influence in the region, they would welcome a role for Moscow as peace-maker if this restored stability and protected their source of wealth.

But both Western and Arab envoys cautioned that Iran could be seeking to manipulate the Soviet Union and the long-term effects of the current contacts remained to be seen.

MOSCOW's effort to improve ties with Tehran after a sour spell in the early 1980s has gathered pace amid moves by Washington to restore its credibility in the region following the

scandal over secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

When Washington began its naval build-up in the Gulf, sending warships to protect reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers, Moscow quickly called for the removal of all foreign warships from the region. Iran readily endorsed the proposal.

The Soviet Union, meanwhile, has continued carrying Kuwaiti oil through the strategic waterway.

Although one of three Soviet tankers chartered by Kuwait was damaged by a mine last May, before Kuwait ships were put under the U.S. flag, the operation has since continued calmly as Iran has stepped up threats against the U.S.

Moscow, which has had three minesweepers in the region for some time to protect Soviet shipping, did not immediately react to the recent announcement of the despatch of British and French minesweepers to the Gulf.

But it strongly attacked the strong U.S. naval presence, accusing Washington of seeking hegemony in the region — a position fully in tune with that of Tehran, which has eased hostile rhetoric against its northern neighbour recently.

Diplomats believe improved Soviet-Iranian ties may also have contributed to Tehran's restraint in reacting to a UN resolution demanding a ceasefire in the Gulf War.

Iran, which has refused to negotiate a settlement with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, recently said it was not rejecting the ceasefire call, although it also did accept it outright. Moscow has strongly backed the truce demand.

The Soviet Union, which shares a 1,740km border with Iran, began seeking better ties 18 months ago, sending the highest-level delegation to Tehran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Relations had cooled when Iran suspended natural gas deliveries to the Soviet Union in a price dispute after the Shah's overthrow and the chill deepened seriously in 1983 when Tehran suppressed the Soviet-backed Tudeh (Communist) Party.

A series of diplomatic expulsions followed and in 1985, as hundreds of Soviet technicians quit Iran due to Iraqi bombings of economic targets, Tehran listed the Soviet presence in Afghanistan, its arms sales to Iraq and abandoned bilateral projects as major obstacles to better relations.

With the prospect of a resumption of work on joint economic projects and warmer Soviet-Iranian political relations now in sight, diplomats expect Moscow to seek to use the situation to strengthen ties with other states in the region.

Well-informed Arab sources said Oman, which established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1985, planned to send its first resident ambassador to Moscow late this year.

Moves are also under way to open an United Arab Emirates embassy in Moscow following the arrival of a Soviet ambassador in Abu Dhabi last autumn. (Reuters)



"Down with America," "Down with Saudi Arabia," shout the mob in Tehran at the funeral of the Iranian victims of the Mecca rioting. (AFP)

Iran on fine edge between madness and stupidity

Adrian Hamilton

THE IRANIANS under the ayatollahs may be mad. But they are not stupid. Amid the hysteria of their reaction to the deaths in Mecca and their cocky assertion of national pride in holding naval maneuvers in the Gulf over the last week, no one should doubt that they have become increasingly nervous of an armed confrontation with the might of America and more and more unhappy with the way in which they have become isolated internationally.

Reports that the Iranian government has actually offered Kuwait a secret ceasefire can probably be dismissed. Even if anyone within the Iranian government had wanted such a deal, the massacre of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca would have put a stop to it.

But the more internationally-minded Iranian leaders — and that, it has to be said, included most of the major figures in government other than Ayatollah Khomeini himself — don't want Iran to be isolated. They would be far happier, as they have in the past few years, keeping the Gulf divided by balancing antagonism to Kuwait with friendly gestures to Oman and the Arab Emirates and keeping Saudi Arabia broadly balanced.

That is always the way the Iranians have played the game. That is the tragedy of the Mecca deaths. For Iran as much as Saudi Arabia, they make it more difficult to return to that game.

At the same time the more sensible among the leadership, particularly Rafsanjani, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament and the most prominent figure in Iran after Khomeini himself, are none too happy about an armed confrontation

with America at this moment — not because of any great feelings towards America or any great desire to avoid a bloody nose, but for the perfectly logical reason that they fear the effect of American bombing on their war effort against Iraq. Destruction of the Iranian naval base at Bandar Abbas and the facilities of the Revolutionary Guards on the island off the Iranian coast could be a severe blow to the Iranian military machine.

THE TROUBLE is that the Iranians, of all people, are quite paranoid where their national pride is at stake. You only have to look at their reaction to the war of the embassies in Paris, the arrest of an official in Manchester, never mind the explosion of fury over the deaths of more than 200 Iranian pilgrims in Mecca to see that. Steaming up the waterways of the Gulf with massed armadas of foreign flagged warships can, and has already, only aroused the worst in Iranian jingoism. No one should doubt their ability to act with total disregard for the consequences when whipped up in xenophobic fury.

And this in turn is only made more likely by the absence of unified government within Iran. On this kind of issue there are as many points of view as mullahs and, unfortunately, all too many mullahs with armed guards and weapons at their disposal ready to fire them off in anger or to embarrass their rivals. As Rafsanjani claimed in an extraordinarily open criticism of Ayatollah Khomeini recently, there isn't even a

committee to make sure that any military action in the Gulf is authorized at the centre.

The terrible consequences of the Mecca massacre is that it could so easily overtop the balance of Iranian action away from logic to madness. Already feeling cornered by the UN vote and the assembly of international naval force in the Gulf, the Iranians now feel humiliated and aggrieved. The fact that they may well have brought the Mecca problems on themselves by sending several thousand revolutionary guards as pilgrims to demonstrate in the Holy City doesn't matter to them. The fact that Saudi Arabia never wanted trouble and was, indeed, showing signs of a slight amelioration of its attitude towards Iran doesn't count either.

It has happened and now the Iranians, of whatever persuasion, will feel forced to demonstrate a response, just as they did over the arrest of an Iranian official for shoplifting in Manchester and the siege of their embassy in Paris.

They are probably clever enough to avoid the obvious route of attacking American ships and bringing the wrath of American bombers upon themselves. But the potential in kidnaps and explosive outrages in foreign capitals is certainly not beyond them. And then the West will be back in all its old quandaries. Does America bomb Tehran, as it did Tripoli, or does it merely "tut-tut"?

The eyes of the world are on the ships of the Gulf. They should be on the capitals of the West and the Arab states. (London Observer Service)

The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Litani.

U.S. OFFICIALS admit Moscow is winning influence in the critical oil-rich Gulf, but deny suggestions that Washington is facing a major strategic loss through a sharp change in policy widely seen as anti-Iranian.

"In the short term, the Soviets are looking very good, there's no doubt about it," said one.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the relatively low-key Soviet approach to the Gulf was paying dividends, most notably in apparently warmer ties with Iran.

But they said Iran, like other Moslem countries, remained deeply suspicious of Moscow while the moderate Gulf states had got over their alarm at clandestine U.S. arms sales to Tehran that ignited President Reagan's worst foreign policy crisis.

The officials said that in the first six months of this year, the moderate Gulf states had real concerns over U.S. policy, as Iranian threats against them increased.

The Reagan administration's credibility had been shaken by disclosure of White House efforts in 1985-86 to win freedom for American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon by secretly selling arms to Iran.

Washington had broken relations with Iran, calling it a terrorist state, and imposed an arms embargo over the 1979-81 hostage crisis when 52 Americans were held in Iran. But the Iran arms scandal set the U.S. back on its accustomed course of hostility to the revolution.

By the end of this month, the U.S. will have collected a powerful force of 24 ships and planes in the region to demonstrate its stated determination to prevent the Gulf coming under Iranian or Soviet domination.

"They wanted evidence of real U.S. commitment, that we would not bug out after the first shot across

U.S. concedes Russia has made short-term gains

Michael Battye/Washington

our bows. Now they have that and they have nailed their flags to the United States," an official said. "Trust had been restored so that in the longer term U.S. influence would continue to dominate, they said.

BUT MANY private analysts do not share that view as U.S. military presence and exposure in the Gulf rises rapidly from Washington's decision to protect Kuwaiti oil exports.

They say that by protecting Kuwait, a supporter of Iraq in the bloody seven-year war with Iran, the U.S. has taken on the mantle of a near-belligerent in contrast to simple Soviet leasing of oil tankers to Kuwait.

Some said they were becoming alarmed at the prospects for American policy in the vital region as Washington effectively abandoned its officially neutral position in the war.

"The Soviets are winning and we are losing because we are being stupid and they are being smart," said Robert Hunter of the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"We are putting ourselves in the potential danger of suffering one of the most important strategic losses



Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov (AFP)

since the Second World War," he said.

Some critics say the agreement to aid Kuwait is an ill-conceived attempt to offset diplomatic damage from the Iran arms scandal and may actually help Iran by making it difficult for Iraq to attack Iran's shipping for fear of provoking Iranian vengeance strikes against American warships.

The analysts' unhappiness with U.S. policy has sharpened since a visit to Tehran by Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov

last month following which Moscow announced political agreement on important commercial projects.

That Moscow could make progress in such talks while remaining Iraq's biggest arms supplier and carrying Kuwaiti oil in its own tankers, meant the Soviet Union was the only power in a position to mediate an end to the war, they said.

"I have detected a change in the Soviet stance over the last year to finding a way to give Iran an honourable way to end the war," said Yehya Sedowski of the private Brookings Institute.

"This is all part of (Soviet leader Mikhail) Gorbachev's push over the last two years to represent Moscow as a reasonable, responsible player in the Middle East that is non-provocative and says we are interested in peace and prepared to pursue many forms of international collaboration.

"What we are seeing is not only taking short-term advantage of American bungling, but longer-term effects as well," he said.

Jim Phillips, of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research organization politically attuned to the White House, said the apparent success of the Vorontsov visit was illusory.

"I interpret that visit more in terms of an Iranian effort to play the Soviets off against the U.S. rather than a successful Soviet effort to make inroads into Iran," he said.

He agreed with U.S. officials who said there was no cause for immediate concern over what they saw as Iran using Moscow in its war of words with Washington, because there was no apparent Iranian interest in peace.

Both officials and analysts said because Iran needed freedom of navigation in the Gulf to protect its oil exports an Iranian attack on an American ship would be unlikely.

Shatilla fears the winter

Acil Tabarra/Beirut

AFTER 10 months without water or electricity, living in musty cellars beneath bombed-out shells of buildings among streets strewn with filth, the 4,000 refugees besieged in the Shatilla Palestinian camp in West Beirut are near the end of their tether.

Last week, a pathetic group of barefoot women and children demonstrated on the streets of the camp. Brandishing placards, they appealed to the Syrian peacekeeping force and the Amal Shi'ite militia-men blockading the camp to ease their plight.

Chanting "Shatilla is not Ansar" — Ansar was the prison camp set up by the Israelis during their invasion of Lebanon in 1982 — they called on Syria's President Hafez Assad to end the siege and restore water and electricity, "out of respect for human dignity."

They also want Assad to authorize a rebuilding programme before winter sets in.

Since the so-called "war of the camps" broke out in May 1985, the pro-Syrian Amal militia have been trying to dislodge the Palestinians holed up in the camp, saying they want to prevent a resurgence of



An amputee girl resident of the Shatilla refugee camp. The child at the left holds an automatic assault rifle. (AFP)

Palestinian military strength that could invite a new Israeli invasion.

The food blockade imposed last September during the third phase of the war of the camps was lifted on April 8, 43 days after some 7,000 Syrian troops entered West Beirut to quell factional fighting.

But the siege itself is still very much in force. Women only are allowed out to local shops, where they often pay through the nose for everyday items.

Some 40 women have been detained at the joint Syrian and Amal control post at the camp entrance when going out to shop, according to Siham, an official of the General Union of Palestinian Women.

Earlier, in incidents that followed

the lifting of the siege, dozens of women were shot and wounded as they struggled to bring food back to their families.

For the men, the camp is a prison. Ahmed, a bearded 30-year-old, has not been outside the camp for two years. He said: "You mustn't think about leaving, otherwise it becomes an obsession, and then it's hell."

Dr. Chris Giammona, a Canadian doctor working in the camp and in the same boat as the refugees, said: "The men are at the end of their tether, and several are going under through a mixture of boredom and alcohol."

He has run the camp's hospital for two years, and the problems are getting worse. "The children are dehydrated and suffering from skin

diseases," he said. "I had to admit 10 to hospital last week."

The clammy summer heat has churned up a foul stench from the debris and decay, pungent and lingering. But already thoughts are turning fearfully to winter. It has been four months since the fighting stopped, but still Syrian soldiers are refusing to allow in building supplies to reconstruct shelters.

Siham said: "In the summer we get by, we sleep in the ruins. But we'll need a roof this winter, unless they're trying to turn us into wild beasts."

"Those who are keeping us prisoner think they can force us to move out. But if we abandon Shatilla, where will we go?" (AFP)



Alliance Assurance Company Limited

CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.12.86

(In 1,000 Pounds Sterling)

1985	1986	1985	1986
623,941	Investments	767,957	496,357
86,576	Fixed Assets	95,278	113,659
285,227	Other Assets	319,715	267,931
			88,797
975,744		1,182,950	975,744

STATISTICAL REPORT OF REVENUE AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.86

(In 1,000 pounds sterling)

(in 1,000 pounds sterling)		
1985		1986
345,395	General Insurance Premium	422,173
(23,537)	Loss in General Insurance	(1,389)
41,054	Income from Investments less Expenses not debited to Revenue Account	45,431
13,886	Business Profits (before Reserves)	30,428

DETAILS OF ISRAELI BUSINESS PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.86

(Adjusted to New Israeli Shekels of December 1986)

(adjusted to New Israeli Sheqels of December 1986)		
1985		1986
553,950	General Insurance Premium	728,714
(255,837)	Profit (Loss) in General Insurance	(162,496)
33,495	Investment Profits less Expenses not debited to Revenue Account	—
(188,220)	Net Profit (Loss) before Taxation	(153,910)

ISRAELI INVESTMENTS AS AT 31.12.86

(Adjusted to New Israeli Shekels of December 1986)

(adjusted to New Israeli Shekels of December 1986)		
1985		1986
536,500	Liabilities in Israel	684,004
369,164	Recognised Investment in Israel	340,842
(167,336)	Surplus (Deficit) Investment in Israel	(323,162)
—	Unrecognised Investment in Israel	—

Full and detailed report with explanation and comments including Auditors' Report is obtainable on demand from the General Agents and Attorneys in Israel at their offices, 55 Pithas Margolin Quay, Bat Galim, Haifa. This publication is in compliance with the Insurance Business (Superintendence) Law, 1981.

NATIONAL INSURANCE OFFICE LTD.

GENERAL AGENTS AND ATTORNEYS IN ISRAEL

SETTING FOREST FIRES

In order to reduce the danger of forest fires, scientists are studying the pine ecosystem with an eye to preventing forest fires and making national parks and forests more "user friendly." Dr. Pua Kutiel, director of the Ecological Garden, says that "prescribed" fires reduce accumulated fuels in the ecosystem by cutting the amount of brush, and thus the forest itself becomes less flammable. They also help to increase or maintain nitrogen mineralization rates for healthy trees and plants.

The Technion researchers are also planting fire-retardant species of shrubs that not only add to the beauty of the surroundings but also retard the spread of fire.

Obviously, only the experts know how to make planned forest fires. No layman should attempt kindling brush to reduce the danger of tree fires.

The Ecological Garden is also helping the government and the Jewish

National Fund in developing economical plants suited to the particular soil around housing projects, using mushrooms in symbiosis with plants to lower fertilizer costs, and growing plants without the use of pesticides.

THE PICTUREPHONE, which allows you to see the person you're talking to on the phone, was the sensation of the 1964 New York World's Fair; but since then, little has been done to promote this invention. Now, a new version called the Photophone will be on display at the Security 87 exhibition at Kfar Hamaccabiah next month.

The device is imported by the Da'at Engineering Company of Israel from the Image Delta company of San Antonio, Texas. It is the size of a personal computer and weighs 14 kilos. It has a sophisticated video camera that can rotate in all directions, taking pictures of the caller and sending the voice and image across town or across the world.

The importers are selling the device for \$9,000 (it costs only a bit less — \$8,500 — in the U.S.), and hope that the photophone will compete with

facsimile machines, which offer only two-dimensional documents to be sent over phone lines, without the bonus of video pictures.

The photophone could be used for conference calls, allowing top executives to stay home and have long meetings with their colleagues. Several medical uses, including diagnoses, are also possible. The images can also be saved on diskettes.

The importers think they can sell 80 of the devices in the next two years.

SPEAKING OF VIDEO, travellers on the Paris Metro can now watch short video films while waiting for the train to arrive. The screens have been installed at 120 stations, and video films on cultural subjects lasting three to six minutes, are shown.

FOR THOSE WHO like privacy, a new kind of screen is being installed on automatic banking machines in Israel that enables only the user to see what the screens says. The IBM



Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

4731 is a tiny TV-like screen, but it has a special filter that allows the words and numbers to be seen from a narrow 24-degree angle from each side. People waiting near you in the queue won't be able to see your bank balance.

According to IBM, the screen prints information in a number of languages — a boon to new immigrants and tourists with Israeli accounts — and can display photographs and graphic symbols as well as commonplace digits and letters. It is more expensive than the regular bankomat screens, so it's up to the

Set a fire to catch a fire

The computerized gabbai

Morton H. Seelenfreund

A COMPANY in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has developed a customized in-house computer program for U.S. temples and synagogues called "Temple Management" which is advertised as "the answer to your prayers."

It is a completely integrated system which includes membership profiles, listing names, addresses, phone numbers, occupations, high holiday tickets, *yahrzeit* administra-

banks to decide if the added expense is worth it in customer appreciation.

THE 3,000 OWNERS and renters of Motorola-Tadiran's Telephone car phone can now take advantage of secretary service when they are not in their vehicle. The Beeper-Pagecall company is now producing a human secretary to collect and even give messages to a caller.

Someone who calls a Telephone user will hear the recorded message: "I am not in the car now; please leave a message." The human secretary will collect the message and transmit it in due course.

PEOPLE WHO LIKE listening to recorded music in their cars are often afraid to buy sophisticated equipment for fear that the tape recorders will be stolen. But now, a special tape cassette is being offered in the U.S. which can be locked when you leave your car. The device is based on the same as the Israeli-developed Rav Bariah door multi-locks.

SPORTS FANS WHO LIKE TO watch a game from the stands using binoculars, and to hear the radio commentary on the game can do both using one new device. Made by Romor Industries of Van Nuys, California, the \$40 fieldglasses have a built-in radio with earplugs.

NOT ONLY ADULTS like looking at attractive faces, so do babies. Psychologist Judith Langlois at the University of Texas at Austin recently studied 34 infants to find out whether the adult preference for attractive faces is learned or inborn.

According to a report in the August issue of *Psychology Today*, the babies were shown pairs of women's faces, previously judged by adults as moderately attractive or unattractive. Half of the pairs contrasted an attractive face with an unattractive face; the rest presented faces that were similar, either both attractive or both unattractive.

The babies, aged six to eight months, obviously couldn't tell the researchers which faces they preferred, but Langlois and her colleagues measured the time they spent looking at each one to judge preference. They also rated the attractiveness of

the mother, to see if her looks influenced the babies' preference. It didn't.

The babies looked longer at attractive faces than at unattractive ones. Seventy-one per cent looked longer at the good-looking faces when these were paired with unattractive ones; 62 per cent looked longer at attractive pairs of faces than at unattractive ones.

Babies only two to three months old, produced almost the same results, except that when faces were presented in like pairs, they didn't look any longer at attractive faces than unattractive ones. The researchers attribute this difference to the infants' lower level of development. Younger babies, they say, may find even ugly faces interesting when no better alternative is available.

But why do babies seem to prefer good-looking faces? The researchers speculate that attractive faces may be more curved and less angular, more vertically symmetrical than unattractive ones. Whatever the explanation, it appears that a universal standard of attractiveness, overlaid with cultural and temporal variations may exist.

"HOW COME I've attended this synagogue for the past five years and have only been given one *aliya* in all that time, while Harry Blumthiner gets one almost every month?"

This sort of complaint is typical of almost every synagogue and was common in ours in Talbiya, Jerusalem until a little over a year ago. Then one of our congregants donated a personal computer to the synagogue office, and for the past 12 months the computer has helped me, the *gabbai* (beadle) perform my duties with greater accuracy and fairness.

For those unfamiliar with the term, the *gabbai* is the person designated by the synagogue board to give out the honours to congregants during the synagogue service.

In order to be fair to all the members of the congregation, exact records must be kept so that the distribution of honours is equal or near equal. Here is where the computer has been extremely helpful.

Each Friday we can ask the computer for the list of members who will be commemorating a *yahrzeit* (memorial anniversary) during the following week. We are then given a printout of the next seven days with the name of that member who has a *yahrzeit* on that specific date. Once presented with the list, the *gabbai* decides who receives which honour. He must also take into consideration guests and other dignitaries attending the synagogue on that Shabbat morning.

On Saturday evening, after Shab-

bat, we list the names of those who received an honour that day and enter this data into the computer. At any one time we can receive an alphabetical printout of the list of congregants and the date each one received an *aliya*. A corollary of this is that we can also see who has not received an *aliya* for a long period of time and honour him accordingly.

This system has helped eliminate the cries of injustice by members who complain of never having received an honour, while in reality they were honoured three or four months ago.

IT IS A decade and a half since Dr. Kildare combined forces with the Star Wars-style light-saber and lasers were first used in medicine.

Over those years, lasers have taken physicians to places never before reached — literally and metaphorically. In addition to the fact that they enable treatment in previously hard-to-get-to areas, such as the eye, teeth, larynx, cervix and rectum, with pin-point accuracy, they have increased the possibilities of fast and non-invasive diagnosis, of surgery without (or with less) blood and — of great importance — they have greatly reduced treatment time and patient trauma.

Lasers are now standard appar-

atus in many hospitals around the world. Ophthalmologists, surgeons of all kinds, gynecologists, dermatologists, and ENT specialists will all testify to contribution of the "magic beams" to their profession.

Four types of lasers have been developed for use in medicine: CO₂; Nd:YAG; argon; and ruby — named according to the material used for the lasing medium and classified by their wavelength and output power (continuous, in a single pulse or a series of pulses).

CO₂ lasers, the most versatile of all, can be used for both cutting and coagulating; the others can only be used for coagulating, i.e., to stop bleeding.

Lasers serve as a radiant power, or energy, source which, in medicine, is directed and focused onto tissue. There the beam can *vaporize* (by causing a localized temperature increase which heats away water, the principal constituent of soft tissue, thereby facilitating the tissue's removal); *coagulate* (at lower power absorption, turning tissue into a sticky, nonviable mass which helps stop bleeding, making laser surgery "less bloody than cold steel-scalpel surgery"); and *weld* (in which the

Where lasers replace the scalpel

Lisa Perlman

sticky coagulum is used to join tissue).

Used in conjunction with optical fibres, they can be "snaked" inside the body without cutting the patient open (endoscopy). The optical fibres convey illumination to the scene, allowing the physician to see the relevant section clearly. This may be done through natural body canals (windpipe, gullet, bowel, etc.) or through a puncture wound, (e.g., into the abdominal cavity or eye). Sometimes the image is displayed outside the body on a monitor, which enables the whole medical team to observe the operation.

ISRAEL HAS PLAYED an active role in medical laser development from the beginning. Pioneer Prof.

Yitzhak Kaplan, of Beilinson Hospital and Tel Aviv University, who developed the first carbon dioxide laser used in surgery together with engineer Uzi Sharon in 1972, has always been interested in spreading the zappy word. He has done a good job. Eight thousand of his and Sharon's laser, the Sharplan, have been sold in 43 countries, command 50 per cent of the CO₂ laser market, and have become routine in every field of surgery. Laser Industries produces both the Sharplan H2100, a continuous-wave coagulator system, primarily used in the operating theatre, and the portable Sharplan 1020, mainly found in doctors' surgeries.

Ophthalmologists were among the first to get excited about using lasers in treatment. Today, 80 per cent of the world's lasers are used in ophthalmology, and the "foremost eye diseases of the Western world"

cannot be treated without lasers, according to Prof. Michael Belkin, of Tel Hashomer Hospital's eye institute.

Sophisticated advancements in this field include the possibility of treating glaucoma without surgery and of removing a membrane which forms in 30 per cent of post-cataract surgical cases. Research is currently underway into reshaping the cornea to correct near- and long-sightedness, which would have major repercussions on all arms of the spectacle industry.

In 1975, Kaplan also founded the International Society for laser surgery and medicine which caused a spin-off of national and regional societies in many countries. The society recently held its seventh congress in Munich, West Germany.

Following its previous meet, held in Jerusalem, the Israeli Ministry of Science decided to appoint a committee to examine the medical laser situation locally. The committee distributed questionnaires to people involved in the field and is now in the "gathering of information stage,"

according to coordinator Stan Brochstein, a strategic planning consultant.

The basic purpose of the committee, Brochstein said, is "to stimulate the advancement of laser technology in medicine in order to enhance the growth of exports."

Laser applications seem certain to benefit both patients and business. And if an optic fibre can be found for CO₂ laser radiation, the power of these techniques will increase.

Says one expert: "The requirements for new systems are not hard to state. They include specificity of tissue effect, minimal trauma to the patient, ease of use, versatility and cost-effectiveness."

The hardware is more difficult to predict, and anything that meets the requirements has a chance of being accepted, especially if it involves reduced capital expenditure. Miniaturization is a likely technological development.

"It's even possible that the R&D efforts of the other 'Star Wars' programme will spin off something useful," — the expert suggests.

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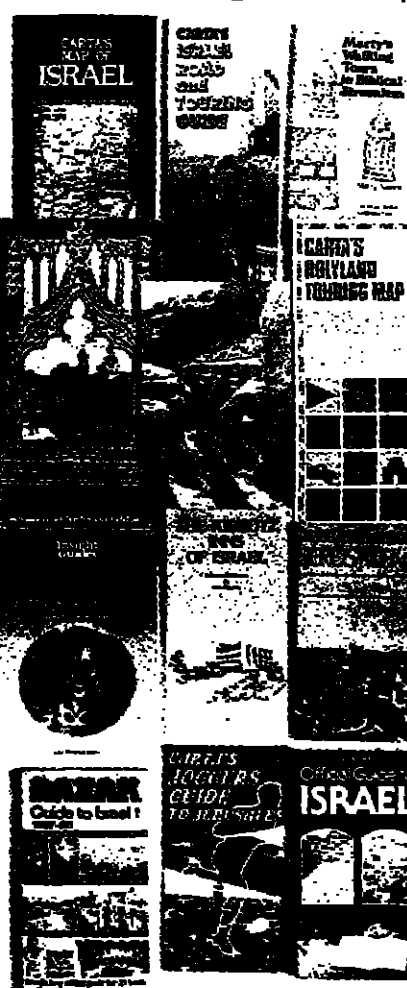
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ROAD TEST

The Passat — not quite a sports car



The Passat GT

IN THE beginning there was the Santana. At the end of the last decade, Volkswagen came out with the two new lines: the Passat, an average-sized station-wagon, and the Santana, which was nothing more than the Audi 80 disguised as a Volkswagen. The marketing idea behind the Santana was to enable Volkswagen customers to grow with the company instead of having to change firms once they could afford a bigger car.

Volkswagen and Audi are but two branches of the same concern. However, while VW is seen as a popular car, Audi's reputation is that of a luxury and sports car. The Santana proved to be a headache to both. It was too glamorous for the typical VW customer, and it drew on the reservoir of the traditional Audi clientele.

Last year, the company decided to revamp its marketing policies — it was time for Santana to change its image. It lost its name and was co-opted to the Passat line, while Audi came out with a new 80. The Santana-Passat remained what it has been: an old Audi 80. In some cases, it can be more expensive than the Audi 80, but has a popular image. Some people prefer an expensive Passat to an economical Audi. It's all a question of self and social image.

The new policy set down that the Audi was to be a luxury sports model, and the Passat — a solid, popular car. Consequently, the new Audi 80 came equipped with a 1600 cc engine and no automatic transmission. The Passat can be had with a 1300 cc

engine and automatic transmission although the latter is available only in models with 1600 cc engines.

The plans for the automatic transmission, however, went awry. The company had planned to develop a new Audi 80 together with a new transmission system. It developed the manual system itself, and the automatic one in conjunction with Renault. The manual system met the target date, the automatic one — to put it delicately — had been delayed.

THE PASSAT features two basic engines. The one can be adapted to three sizes; the other, to two. The smaller one is four-cylinder and comes in three capacities: 1,272 cc, 1,595 cc and 1,781 cc. The larger one is five-cylinder and comes in 1,994 cc or 2,226 cc. Of these five sizes, all but the smallest can be had with an automatic system, identical in every case. Prices range from NIS 40,000 to NIS 65,000 with special features corresponding in cost. The high exchange rate of the Deutschmark makes the car expensive here, as compared with Europe.

The first thing to hit the eye when you take the wheel of the Passat is the tachometer. Why does an automatic need a rev counter? "So that you can drive it like a sports car," according to Avi Bar-Yoav, the service manager of Champion Motors.

But the Passat automatic can be disappointing if compared with the manual Audi 80. It drives correctly, reacts well and with the expected accuracy, but it's rather lifeless. Still,

when locked into second gear, it'll go up to 120 km/hr with ease, keeping the tachometer out of the warning zone. Not that there's any danger of overtaxing the engine since the car is equipped with a unique device which will smother the engine as soon as the revs exceed the accepted limit.

The truth is that even for normal automatic driving, there's no cause to be disappointed. The Passat automatic is a solid, executive, family car which does exactly what is expected of it, neither more, nor less. Those who want a sports car, should buy one rather than take the Passat automatic.

Some of the hallmarks of this year's Passat include wide bumpers which wrap around the engine mount up to the wheels, an internal integral spoiler, a grid in which are inset the wide-beam halogen lights, and broad protective bands inset on both sides. All models come with four doors.

The Passat benefits from all the service improvements instituted by Volkswagen for all its models: service once a year or every 30,000 kms. As a result, the maintenance time has decreased from six hours every 54,000 kms. to 1.6 hours every 30,000 kms.

HERE ARE the results of my test drive in the 1800 model.

□ Acceleration — very quick: from 0-100 km/hr in 13.5 seconds.
□ Engine — highly flexible; easy starting in all weather conditions followed by immediate smooth driving due to a great automatic choke;

90 hp at 2,500 rpm, and a torque of 14.8 kg/m at 3,300 rpm, which explains the engine's flexibility.

□ Transmission — very good and smooth.
□ Steering — accurate power-steering; good feel for the road; very smooth at slow speeds, more difficult at high speeds.

□ Driving — nice.
□ Road grip — good.
□ Stability — good; slight sensitivity to side-currents.

□ Brakes — soft power-brakes; very good, steady and reliable.
□ Driving position — comfortable.

□ Comfort features — good internal lighting; ample room to put things; lighter poorly positioned for smoking driver, especially if ashtray is open.

□ Controls — well situated.
□ Dashboard indicators — relatively economical as standard in VWs, with the addition of the tachometer.

□ Visibility — very good.
□ Seats — comfortable in front; ample room for three in back.

□ Drive — very smooth.
□ Noise level — quiet.

□ Ventilation and heating — good.
□ Maximum speed — 170 km/h.

□ Consumption — 91 octane; in city, 8.2 km/l; on highway, 9.6 km/l.
□ Price — NIS 40,000-65,000, depending on model and features.
□ Warranty — one year unlimited kilometrage; three years for paintwork; six years rust-proof.
□ Service — once a year or once every 30,000 km.
□ Conclusion: a correct and solid car with latent sports potential.

SOCCER

Hapoel juggernaut rolls tonight

By ORI LEWIS

TEL AVIV - Hapoel's members of the management committee of the Israel Football Association (IFA) have ensured that the Hapoel juggernaut will roll at the IFA's annual general meeting here today.

Hapoel's members met yesterday and decided to vote in line with the movement's policy of deferring a decision about allowing foreign players to play league soccer in Israel.

This means, therefore, that the long awaited debate on the crucial question has been postponed yet again. Hapoel have 14 votes on the IFA's management committee, Maccabi and Beitar have only eight between them.

It was hoped that Hapoel would allow its members on the committee freedom to vote according to their personal convictions. Hapoel general secretary Yitzhak Ofek said yesterday, however, that no decision should be made before the incoming committee takes office, after tonight's meeting, as it would be unfair for the old committee to confront the new committee with a fait accompli.

Several Hapoel members are now thought to be in

favour of allowing foreigners into Israeli soccer - thus opposing the official line taken by Hapoel, Israel's largest sports body.

Ofek, who has generally been regarded as opposed to the idea of the inclusion of foreigners in Israeli soccer, says that he is in favour of the idea in principle, but only after the number of teams in the premier league is reduced to 12 from the present 14 teams.

Ofek said yesterday: "The reduction of teams in the premier league is a must so that some order will be reached in Israeli soccer. Only after this is done, can we consider bringing in foreigners."

Azrikel Milchan, who heads the Maccabi faction in the IFA, said that this evening, after the new management committee is elected, it will convene and vote on the inclusion of foreigners. He called on Ofek to allow his delegates the freedom to vote as they wish. Ofek retorted that he would allow Hapoel's members to vote freely only if the reduction of the leagues would also be included on the agenda. IFA chairman Shaul Sweri, of Hapoel, favours giving the committee members freedom of choice.

BASEBALL

Molitor makes it 38 straight games

NEW YORK (AP) - The records show Milwaukee's Paul Molitor has hit in 32 straight games, the longest streak of the 1980s and the longest in the American League in 38 years. How he got there doesn't matter.

Molitor's third-inning bunt single was his only hit in three official at-bats on Monday night in the Brewers' 5-3 victory over host Cleveland. The streak broke a tie with Ken Landreaux for the longest of the '80s. In 1980, Landreaux hit in 31 straight for Minnesota.

"I take a look down there every at-bat. Some third basemen completely take that away from you," Molitor said of his single, the first bunt hit during his streak.

Molitor's streak is the longest in the major leagues since Pete Rose hit in 44 straight games for Cincinnati in 1978. It's the longest in the American League since Dom Dimaggio hit in 34 straight for the Boston Red Sox in 1949. Joe Dimaggio set the major-league record with a 56-game hitting streak for the New York Yankees in 1941.

"People have mentioned that Landreaux's streak was the longest in the '80s," Molitor said. "Maybe when I look back on my career, if this holds up another three years,

it'll be that much more important to me."

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Billy Hatcher and the scuffed ball controversy heated up as the Houston Astros completed a four-game sweep of Atlanta, prompting Braves manager Chuck Tanner to say his team's playoff hopes may have ended.

Hatcher, the Astros left-fielder, had four hits, including his 10th homer, and scored three runs to lead the Astros to an 11-2 victory over the Braves in the only National League game on Monday.

The scuffed ball controversy began when both benches cleared after Rick Mahler, pitching in a rare relief role, hit batters Kevin Bass and Glenn Davis to start the Houston sixth inning. The pitch to Davis was a fastball up and in that hit him in the neck.

"I was not throwing at him," Mahler said. "I'd never try to hit anyone in the head. The pitch just got away because it was one of the scuffed balls Astros pitcher Mike Scott had used the inning before."

In the top of the sixth, the Braves asked home plate umpire Bob Davidson to check Astros starting pitcher Scott's baseball.

AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	70	47	.598	1 1/2
Detroit	68	47	.591	3
New York	67	51	.568	5
Milwaukee	62	56	.523	8
Boston	56	62	.475	14
Baltimore	53	65	.449	17
Cleveland	45	73	.381	25

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	66	54	.550	-
Oakland	60	58	.508	5 1/2
California	60	59	.504	6
Kansas City	59	59	.500	6
Seattle	54	65	.475	9 1/2
Texas	47	62	.433	16 1/2
Chicago	48	69	.410	16 1/2

MONDAY'S GAMES: Milwaukee 5, Cleveland 3; Chicago 2, Boston 1; Minnesota 4, Kansas City 7; Texas 6, California 6, Oakland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE EAST

	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	70	47	.597	-
Montreal	66	51	.564	4
New York	66	51	.564	4
Philadelphia	61	56	.521	9
Chicago	60	58	.508	10 1/2
Pittsburgh	51	67	.433	19 1/2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	62	57	.521	-
San Francisco	62	57	.521	-
Houston	59	59	.500	2 1/2
Los Angeles	52	65	.444	9
Atlanta	50	68	.424	11 1/2
San Diego	48	70	.407	13 1/2

MONDAY'S GAMES: Houston 11, Atlanta 2 (only game scheduled)

Jackson hits - and bows - out after making it 563

ANAHEIM, California (AP) - Reggie Jackson, logging his .208 batting average around the American League like a ball and chain, made his last game at Anaheim Stadium a memorable one for everyone who had watched him as an Angel for five seasons.

Jackson homered into the center-field seats in the seventh inning with a man on base, giving the Oakland Athletics a 4-2 lead. But California came back on Devon White's grand slam to win 6-4.

"I felt good after the home run, but it was so deflating after the guy hit the grand slam," Jackson said.

"We blew that game. That's all that matters - if you win or lose. It doesn't make any difference what else happens. It seems like, even if I have a good night, it doesn't work out."

The home run was Jackson's 15th of the season and the 563rd of his

career. It came, by coincidence on the 17th of the month, Jackson hit his first major-league home run here on Sept. 17, 1967, with the Kansas City Athletics, and his 500th here on Sept. 17, 1984 with the Angels. In all, he hit 87 career homers in Anaheim Stadium.

"I always like to play here because I feel the ball park is small," he said. Jackson used the occasion of his Anaheim finale to reiterate that this is his final season as an active player.

"I've never said never, but I don't think so," he responded when asked if he might change his mind and play one more year.

Jackson was supposed to play right field on Monday night, but wasn't able to do so because of a painful left big toe that was still sore from surgery and a slight hamstring pull. He said it wouldn't be right for him to be playing defense at less than 100 per cent because of the adverse

effect it might have on the pennant-contending Athletics.

Instead, he was the designated hitter, going 1-for-3. When he came up in the first inning, the game was stopped and public address announcer Dennis Packer introduced a package of video highlights from Jackson's five seasons with the Angels that were shown on the scoreboard.

Jackson, visibly moved, backed out of the batter's box, removed his helmet and bowed his head. He then waved his helmet and blew kisses to the crowd of 30,090 that gave him a standing ovation.

Among Jackson's feats at Anaheim stadium were his 500th career home run and a number of other milestone homers. Last season, he hit three homers in a game for the third time in his illustrious 21-year major league career.

TENNIS

Jimbo's coming on the Israeli trail

By JACK LEON

Post Sports Reporter

TEL AVIV - The legendary Jimmy Connors will appear in exhibition matches in Jerusalem and Haifa during October, in company with fellow-American stars Brad Gilbert and Aaron Krickstein, evergreen Rumanian life Nastase and Israeli Davis Cup players Shlomo Glickstein, Amos Mansdorf and Gilad Bloom.

The exhibitions - together worth up to \$40,000 in prize money - are being staged by the Israel Tennis Centre at its Jerusalem and Haifa courts, as part of the ITC's 10th anniversary celebrations. The event in Haifa will take place on October 12 and the one in Jerusalem on October 13, at the same time as the first round of the 9th Israel Tennis Centre Riklis Class, a Nabico Grand Prix meet this year worth \$100,000 in prize money, will be played at Ramat Hasharon. All the participants in the exhibitions are also appearing at Ramat Hasharon.

The Jerusalem and Haifa facilities are holding the events in co-operation with their respective municipalities, and temporary stands will be erected to bring the seating accommodation at each venue to 2,000 spectators.

The programme at Haifa will com-

prise Gilbert or Krickstein against Bloom in singles and a doubles pitting Nastase and another overseas guest against Glickstein and Haifaite Shabar Parkis. In Jerusalem, there will be a singles match between Connors and Mansdorf, and a doubles match involving two foreign players - one of them maybe Nastase - and top local under-18 juniors Raviv Merenstein and Raviv Weidenfeld.

The Jerusalem and Haifa meets - along with the Grand Prix - are being sponsored by Coca Cola, El Al, Dan Hotels, Brut by Fabergé, Gali and Eldan, the ITC's Ian Froman, Kollie Friedstein, Ruth Kedat and Dan Berovitz told a press conference here yesterday.

With top-class professional tennis competition having so far been confined to Ramat Hasharon, the exhibitions will provide Jerusalem and Haifa fans with opportunities to see superstars in action in their own backyards. Up to now, the two centres have been allotted only small ATP (men's) and WITA (women's) tournaments.

In a new departure for Israel, matches in the exhibitions will be decided on a tie-break if the players have split the first two sets. This format is becoming popular abroad in exhibition or friendly contests.

SWIMMING

Channel crossed 3 times

DOVER (AP) - Philip Rush, a 23-year-old marathon swimmer from New Zealand, made a triple crossing of the English channel in 28 hours and 21 minutes, chopping 10 hours and six minutes off the previous record.

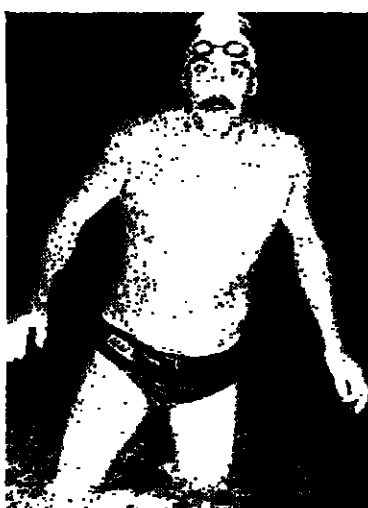
Rush, a financial services manager from Lower Hutt, broke four other speed records during his triple crossing and even contemplated attempting a fourth crossing.

The only other person to have swum the English channel three times in a row is Jon Ericson of the United States, a 26-year-old physical education teacher from Chicago who completed the marathon in 38 hours and 27 minutes in 1981. No one has ever made four crossings in a row.

The channel is about 21 miles (34 kilometres) wide, although swimmers can cover greater distances depending on where they start and land.

Rush's coach, Tony Keenan, said Rush was "in great shape" following his marathon, suffering only from raw patches of skin on his neck, where he turned his head in the water to breathe.

"I'm a wee bit tired," said Rush, who has been swimming marathons



IS THIS FRANCE OR ENGLAND? - Philip Rush comes out of the water at Calais after swimming the Channel three times. (Reuters)

for seven years. "The swim was very hard."

Rush said weather and other conditions were ideal for the endeavour - little wind, few boats and a comfortable water temperature.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

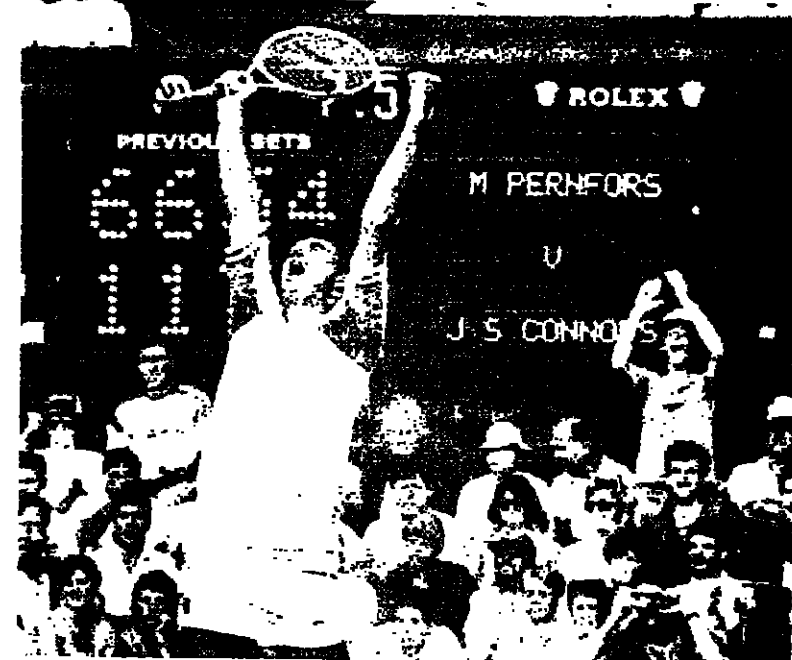
England back in '88

BERNE, (APF) - English clubs, frozen out of European competition since the 1985 European Cup Final tragedy in Belgium, have been given a provisional place in next year's UEFA Cup.

The European governing body, UEFA, have set aside two places for England among the 64 clubs in the 1988-89 UEFA Cup tournaments.

The ban was imposed after 39, mostly Italian, fans died in rioting between Juventus and Liverpool fans at the 1985 European Cup final in Brussels.

Italy, the Soviet Union and West Germany are accorded the biggest quota, with four clubs each. Scotland, Spain, Portugal, Belgium and Austria have three clubs each.



TRIUMPHANT - Jimmy Connors beats Mikael Pernfors at Wimbledon. (AFP)

Connors - who will be 35 on September 2 - is currently 6th in the ATP's world singles standings, making him the highest-ranked player to have competed in the Israel Grand Prix Tournament to date. At Wimbledon last month, the old street fighter staggered the tennis world when, on the way to the semi-finals, he came back from two sets and 1-4 down against Sweden's 23-year-old Mikael Pernfors to achieve a famous victory against all the odds.

In a career going back to the beginning of the 1970s "Jimbo" has won an unprecedented 105 singles

titles on the pro-circuit, including two at Wimbledon, five at the U.S. Open, three in Paris and one in Australia. He was ranked No. 1 in the world every year between 1974 and 1978 and has been a top-tenner ever since 1973. He loves to entertain the crowd, is always looking for a chance for a jest, yet fights with grim determination for every single point.

Connors has been a long-time supporter of the ITC and was one of its 50 original founders in 1975. This will be his second appearance in Israel, following exhibition matches here in 1981.

TRACK & FIELD

Aouita injured

ZURICH (AFP) - Olympic champion and holder of four world records Said Aouita of Morocco may miss today's Grand Prix athletics meeting here, raising doubts about his fitness for the World Championships in Rome on August 29.

Aouita is struggling to recover from a recurrent leg injury, which had already forced him to miss last Sunday's meeting in Cologne.

He is undergoing treatment on an inflamed leg nerve in Morocco in an attempt to get fit for the World Championships. He had been hoping to make yet another world record bid in the Weltklasse meeting here. Last month he became the first man

to break the 13 minute barrier for the 5,000 metres. He was going to try here simultaneously for the 1,500 metres and mile.

"Any record attempt is now out of the question," said Andreas Brugger, the promoter, who has been in constant touch with Aouita. "I am sorry for Said. He has been running too much and we must wait to see if he can get fit."

The leg injury first occurred in 1984, and the pain became serious again after his fantastic world record in Rome in July.

Some 20 world record attempts in three seasons have inevitably taken their toll on this ambitious runner.

PANAM GAMES

Drugs, politics dominate

INDIANAPOLIS (Reuters) - The spectre of a drugs scandal returned to haunt the Pan American Games, on a day dominated more by controversy than competition.

Six drugs-related disqualifications were announced by Pan American Sports Organisation (Paso) president Mario Vazquez Rana on the quietest of days, when only one gold medal was decided.

That went to the Cubans, who overturned a 5-2 deficit to beat the U.S. 9-7 in men's team sabre fencing.

Vazquez Rana also announced that Paso had given up their attempts to obtain a visa for Francisco Zuniga, a member of Chile's shooting team and former intelligence agent, accused of human rights violations. After lengthy discussions, Vazquez Rana rejected the U.S. State Department's explanations for refusing to grant a visa.

"The Chilean issue is finished," he said. "We are treating this as a clear denial of visas and have decided not to continue listening."

Four years ago in Caracas, 19 athletes - 11 of them medalists - were disqualified after failing drug tests in the biggest drug scandal in amateur sport.

Controversy also surfaced over Vazquez Rana's insistence that Paso were following International Olympic Committee (IOC) policy and dope-testing every medalist at the games.

"As Medical Commission member Ronald Blankenbaker refused to support this claim, saying that only as many individual medalists as possible were being tested."

Cuban boxers continued their march towards gold with awesome displays of power. They won all four of their quarterfinal bouts - three against U.S. opponents.

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION

EDUCATIONAL TV

9:00 Telecast 9:05 Keep Fit 9.15 Mrs. Peppercorn 9:25 Nashon 9:30 Heart 9:35 Barrie 9:40 Viewers' Choice 14:00 Telecast 14:05 Straight to the Point 14:20 Contact 1, 2, 3 14:50 Five Mile Creek (part 2) 15:40 Telecast 15:45 Keep Fit 15:55 David, the Gnome 16:20 TV Game 17:00 A New Evening - live magazine

ISRAELI TV

17:30 The Wonderful World of Walt Disney (part 6)

ARABIC LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES

18:30 News roundup 18:32 Agriculture Today 19:00 Body Matters 19:30 News

HEBREW PROGRAMMES resume at

20:00 with a news roundup
20:02 From the Movies - cinema magazine
21:00 Mabat Newsreel
21:30 Mabat
21:45 Perry Mason Returns. TV movie starring Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale
22:30 News

ISRAELI TV CHANNEL 2

19:00 Tazpit 19:30 Danjankuk Trial Roundup 20:00 Dance 22:30 Pop 2

JORDAN TV (unofficial)

17:30 Cartoons 18:00 French Hour 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 There's a Crowd 21:10 Silk Road 22:00 News in English 22:20 Wheels

MIDDLE EAST TV

13:30 Another Life 14:00 700 Club 14:30 Show-Up 15:00 Afternoon Movie: Arms of Green Gables 15:30 Muppet Babies 17:00 Super Book 17:30 Fraggle Rock 18:00 Punny Brewster 18:30 The Campbells 19:00 News 20:00 Simon & Simon 21:00 Head of the Class 21:30 Newhart 22:00 Cagney & Lacey 23:00 700 Club 23:30 Another Life

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:01 Morning Melodies 7:00 Rossini: Italiane in Algeri Overture; Paganini: Violin Concerto No. 1 in D major (Pierl. Mont. Phil. L. Foster); Schubert: Symphony No. 8 (Berlin Phil./Bohm); Mendelssohn: String Quartet Op. 44 No. 2 (Tel Aviv); Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 17 (BBC); Piano Concerto No. 21 (Perthia, English Chamber); Beethoven: String Quartet Op. 18 No. 1 (Wag); Schubert: Schwanengesang (Fischer-Dieskau, Moore); Mahler: Symphony No. 5 (Chicago/Solti); 12:00 Alexander Tel. violin, Michael Tel. piano - Mozart: Sonata for Violin and Piano K.311; Schubert: Piano Sonata in A major; Adolph Hesse: Sonata for Violin and Piano in E minor 13:00 Dance music by Tchaikovsky, Berlioz, Smetana, Verdi, Saint-Saens, Mussorgsky, Gounod and Bizet 15:00 Musica Viva - works by Peter Dinklage and Gyorgy Ligeti 16:00 Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra - Haydn: Oboe Concerto (G. Hase, Spier); Debussy: Rhapsody for Clarinet and Orchestra (Eutinger, Bertini); Glazunov: Symphony No. 5

(Schoenwälder); Grieg: Piano Concerto (Teichner, Robertson) 18:00 Vocal music by Vividly 19:00 Music that you love 20:00 Musical Medley 20:30 Opera - Gluck: Alcibiades 23:00, 1. S. Bach: Partitas

RADIO 1st

6:00 Programmes for Olim 7:30 Programme in Easy Hebrew 8:05 Compass 8:57 The Demjanjuk Trial - live broadcast 13:05 Hebrew songs 13:30 News in French 13:45 News in English 14:05 Children's programmes 15:00 Songs for the Afternoon 15:27 Everyman's University 15:57 The Demjanjuk Trial - live broadcast 18:05 The Mishna Portion for today 18:20 Bible Reading 19:30 Programmes for Olim 22:05 A Friend from the same Planet

RADIO 2nd

6:04 Editorial Review 6:10 Gymnastics 6:30 News roundup 6:52 Green Light - drivers' corner 7:00 This Morning - news magazine 8:05 Children's programmes 9:08 Morning Stars 10:05 All Shades of the Network 12:10 O.K. on 20 13:00 Midday - news commentary, music 14:05 Humour 15:05 Magic Moments 16:05 Made in Israel - Hebrew songs 17:05 Economics Magazine 18:05 Any Questions 18:08 Today radio newsreel 19:35 Army and Defence Magazine 20:05 Yiddish songs 22:05 Radio game (repeat) 23:05 Hebrew songs 00:15 Jazz and more

ARMY

6:05 University on the Air 8:30 Open Your Eyes - song, information 7:07 "707" 8:00 Good Morning Israel 8:05 Open House 11:05 Right Now 13:05 Hebrew Hits 14:05 Beach Report 16:05 Four in the Afternoon 17:00 Evening Newsreel 18:05 Army and Defence Magazine 18:05 Hebrew songs 20:05 Personal Questions (repeat) 21:00 Mabat - TV newsreel 21:30 University on the Air (repeat) 22:05 Popular songs 23:05 The 24th Hour 00:05 Night Birds - songs, chat

ARMY TWO

19:05 Radio Radio 20:05 Information, regards and radio games 22:05 The Magical Mystery Tour (repeat) 23:05 All That Jazz

CINEMA PERFORMANCES

JERUSALEM

Belt Agony: Leslie Come Home 4:15; Crazy People 8: Woodstock 7:45; Night Night 10:15; Top Gun 12: midday; Cinema: The Living Daylights 4:30, 7:15, 9:45; Aladdin 11, 1; Tel Aviv Museum: Death of a Salesman 4:30, 7:30; Tel Aviv Museum - Open Air Cinema: Home of the Brave 9 p.m.; Zefora: The Name of the Rose 4:30, 7:45.

HAIFA

Amphitheatre: The Living Daylights 4:30, 7:30.

due to renovations; Israel Museum: Hasbani and the Horse Thieves 10:30, 3:30; Jerusalem Theatre: Death of a Salesman 4:30, 7:30, 9:30; Kfar: Radio Days 4:30, 7:30, 9:30; Supermarket 10:30, 12:30; Mitchell: Don't Give a Damn 7:30, 9:30; Orly: Heart 7:30, 9:30; Snow White 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 5 p.m.; Moscow Down: The Last Ark 10:30, 12:30; Operation Shirelaim 10:30 a.m.; Orion Or 2: Clockwise 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Death Game 10:30 a.m.; Orion Or 3: American Anthem 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Cinderella and the Prince 10:30 and 11:30 p.m.; Orion Or 4: Betto the Unemployed 10:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Body Heat 11:30 p.m.; Orion Or 5: Smooth Talk 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Reborn of the Last Ark 10:30 a.m.; Moscow Down: Believe in Tears 11:30 p.m.; Orion Or 6: King Kong II 4:30, 7:15, 9:15; Orion Or 7: Late Summer Blues 7:30, 9:30; The Nutcracker 10:45, 4:30; Seemless: Children of a Lesser God 7:30.

TEL AVIV

Belt Lines: Talking Heads, Stop Making Sense 7:30, 9:30, 11:15; Ben Yehuda: E.T. 5, 7:30, 9:30; Orion Or 1: Outrageous Fortune 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 9:55; Snow White 10:45 a.m.; Orion Or 2: Angel Heart 5:45, 7:55, 9:55; Bambi 10:45, 12:45, 4:45; Orion Or 3: Stand By Me 5:30, 7:30, 9:30; Orion Or 4: The Great Mouse Detective 5:40, 7:40, 9:40; Orion Or 5: Lethal Weapon 5:40, 7:40, 9:40; Orion Or 6: The Great Mouse Detective 10:45, 12:45, 4:45; Orion Or 7: The Great Mouse Detective 10:45, 12:45, 4:45; Orion Or 8: The Great Mouse Detective 10:45, 12:45, 4:45; Orion Or 9: The Great Mouse Detective 10:45, 12:45, 4:45; Orion Or



Signing on the dotted line.

(Joel Fishman)

Singles' futile search for flats

Whether renting or buying, unmarrieds can't find flats of the right size or at the right price

By Ken Schachter

For The Jerusalem Post

These are desperate days for singles in search of housing. Real estate agents, housing counsellors and singles themselves agree that a convergence of economic forces are pricing small apartments out of the range of many buyers and renters.

A crude barometer of the difficulty in securing an apartment can be found in the measures to which some singles will go to get a foot in the door. Long-time Tel Avivians tell of how many apartment-seekers dash to get the Friday newspaper at 5 a.m., quickly go through the classified listing and then call good prospects for an apartment. Instead of hanging up their telephone, however, the savvy apartment seekers will leave it off the hook in an attempt to block other prospective buyers or renters from coming to see the apartment at least until they have had first crack.

Another sign of the times is the leverage which landlords and real

estate agents have, and use, on dejected apartment hunters. One tearful single told of a landlord who demanded a NIS 30,000 breakage deposit on a Tel Aviv apartment with a sea view. The landlord insisted that there was nothing extraordinary about a NIS 30,000 deposit, but the single's friend, who she asked to serve as co-signer, thought otherwise.

A prospective buyer, meanwhile declared that she was boycotting real estate agents to skirt their fees which sometimes are charged despite very little effort on their parts.

"I personally don't feel like paying 2.5 per cent of the price to someone who just gives you a phone number," she said.

"I call them parasites. I know about certain real estate agents who used to take numbers posted on trees or bulletin boards at a university. And if you call for a flat, these are the numbers they give you. This field of real estate is wild in Israel."

At the root of the problem is a simple matter of supply and demand. Builder's profit margins are lower on the two or two-and-a-half room apartments favoured by singles and they therefore build fewer of them, said Ira Cohen, a member of the national staff of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

Beyond that, there are social problems as well. The parents of single immigrants often are reluctant to help their children finance hous-

ing since they hope the immigrants will return to their native lands, Cohen said. Although the parents of sabras often are ready to help financially, buying still can stretch the incomes of apartment shoppers. Even on the West Bank and Gaza, review committees in many small Jewish settlement towns spurn singles for fear they would disrupt the family atmosphere of the community.

The difficulties of finding apartments have forced some singles to readjust their sights. Some decide to look for a bigger apartment with roommates, while others widen their search. One prospective buyer said that many people who want an apartment in Tel Aviv decide to compromise on apartments in the outlying areas like Holon, Givatayim, Bat Yam, Ramat Gan or Rishon LeZion. Others expand their horizons even further and look for an apartment in New York or Los Angeles.

One factor in the increase in rental rates was the lifting of price controls at the end of May by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

"Now the sky's the limit," said AACI's Cohen. "Apartments that used to be \$150 now can be \$250 or \$300 in Jerusalem. A lot of people who never had roommates before are taking roommates and people are moving because they can't afford where they live today."

Asked to respond to charges that some real estate agents use unethical

practices, Yisrael Forma, former secretary of Maldan, the Association of Israel Property Agencies, said he was in complete agreement.

As it happens, Forma, who used to act as a spokesman for real estate agents, said he had been looking for a house for his family for the past few months. Based on his experience, he said, the charges are "very, very true." Many agencies simply give their clients addresses lifted from newspaper listings, he said. What's more, he said, "agencies push up prices. They have a percentage of the price so they estimate real estate above its true value. If the price is higher they make more money. We're very angry with those agencies."

But beyond any shenanigans by real estate agents is a simple matter of supply and demand.

A look at the cost of flats reveals a sharp rise for the second quarter this year compared with the January through March period. Two-and-a-half to three-room flats in Jerusalem increased at an annual rate of 19.2 per cent for the second quarter to NIS 86,503. The same size flat in Tel Aviv rose at an annual rate of only 9.6 per cent, but the price was steep before the quarter began: NIS 101,459.

But sometimes the price level is academic. An agent at Ramat Gan's Express Real Estate said the price of two-and-a-half-room apartments was \$65,000, while two-room apartments went for about \$15,000 less. But he soon acknowledged that the question was academic since such apartments are nearly unavailable.

If, by chance, a single finds a flat, there is the matter of raising adequate funds. Single immigrants, for example, are eligible for a 25-year NIS 22,500 loan from the Ministry of Housing without interest but linked to the inflation rate. Native Israelis are eligible for a similar loan from the age of 27. To supplement the basic loan, both Israelis and new immigrants can get a complementary loan of NIS 11,000 that carries 9 per cent interest on top of linkage.

Many buyers are hesitant to accept the supplemental loan because of what they see as its harsh terms.

"People are afraid to take linked mortgages," Cohen said. "Salaries aren't linked 100 per cent to inflation."

In any case, even if both loans are utilized, they still amount to about \$21,000, far below the market price of even modest apartments in the urban centres. Additional loans often are available through the builders, but singles are almost inevitably forced to turn to relatives for additional funds.

One native Israeli who sampled life in North America did just that after returning to Israel several years ago. Her housing position is secure, but she marvels at the skyrocketing real estate prices for renters and buyers.

"There are people who make good salaries," she said, "but can't afford to pay rates like it's downtown Manhattan. There's no mercy."

'86-'87 results due today

El Al's survival course

By JONATHAN KARP

TEL AVIV. — It has not been a good week for El Al. Monday's disruptions, coming as they did during a peak travel period, left passengers swearing that they would never again fly the Israeli national carrier. The snags also left the Transport Minister angry enough to start procedures to strip El Al of two of its routes.

But El Al President Rafi Harari is going to try to put these incidents behind him today when he presents the airline's annual report showing what he claims is the biggest profit in El Al's history. It is expected to be between \$10-\$15 million for the year ended March 31.

In a sense, Harari will be saying, "Forget about this week, take a look at last year. Let's consider the bigger picture."

The prospect of the airline's first real profit since it reopened in receivership in January 1983 is certainly positive, but Harari's "bigger picture" theory has some pitfalls as well. Beyond El Al's impressive one-year performance lies \$340 of accumulated debt and a temporary receivership that just doesn't go away.

The airline is confronted with some significant problems, such as a labour dispute with the pilots, scheduling problems and a limited network of destinations due to the fact that it cannot fly eastward, and the ban on Sabbath flights, which effectively has made El Al the only 5/2-day week airline in the world. Nevertheless, today's annual report will show that the airline has made strides towards recovery since reorganizing four and a half years ago.

"Towards the end of the fourth month strike (September 12, 1982-January 12, 1983), says El Al spokesman Nahman Klieman, "new management was appointed and the whole idea was to get people in here who could get this airline back on its feet."

Harari was brought in as the "strongman" and according to Klieman, the management has already accomplished most of its goals. The most immediate one, after resuming flights, was to reduce costs.

Though the work-force had been cut significantly a few years before, Harari decided that the company was still overweight. He laid off 1,200 employees, mostly permanent workers, to bring the total force to 3,600, where it stands today.

Then as each take-off and landing reaffirmed El Al's return, the management sought to add flights and destinations. Compared to a mere 12-14 passenger flights in each of its first weeks of operation in 1983, El Al operated an average of 165 flights a week last year. Since 1983, it has added five new cities to its network.

At the same time, Klieman says, El Al's marketing staff has taken a more aggressive approach to winning back passengers. The airline began developing its own travel packages rather than having to rely on travel agencies.

The airline found ripe markets among non-Jews and last year, 60 per cent of its American passengers were non-Jews, mostly coming on Christian pilgrimages. El Al also increased its market share of commercial traffic to and from Israel, accounting for 51 per cent of the last year, up from just under 47 per cent in 1983/84 and 43 per cent in 1983/84.

As El Al cut its operational costs, the break-even point for each flight dropped considerably, from having to fill 74 per cent of the seats in 1983/84 to needing a load factor of 63 per cent last year. With the help of its marketing drive and a reputation for tight security, El Al managed to fill 75 per cent of the seats last year. In all, the airline carried about 1.5 million passengers.

The corporate streamlining also took the form of more efficient, more intensive utilization of the fleet. With a relatively small fleet of 18 aircraft, El Al had to get more out of each plane in order to remain competitive as it expanded.

In 1983/84 each plane flew an average of 6.1 hours per day. By last year, El Al boosted that figure to 8.1 hours per day, or almost the industry average. El Al's planes, in fact, are in the air for a longer period each day, but the averages are based on 365-day working year, so El Al's figures are diminished, says Klieman.

One indicator of El Al's progress is the fact that the airline is financing the purchase of two Boeing 757s without government guarantees. The two jets are to join the fleet later this year, replacing El Al's last two 707s on European runs. By the end of the century El Al is planning to invest \$1.5 billion in new aircraft, Klieman says.

These are some of the figures to be displayed in the annual report, but another subject which cannot be overlooked is the labour situation within the company. The current problems date back to the days of reorganization, when the labour issue was considered the second goal of the new management.

Eight workers' committees representing the different employee sectors were merged in to a single committee with eight representatives. Then, as now, seven of the representatives agreed to the collective work agreement, while the pilots held out.

Whether the receivership continues seems to be directly related to the labour situation. Klieman says that in 1983, "the hope was that the company would stay in receivership until the labour question was put to rest." Eventually, everyone signed, but the receivership was extended.

Now that the airline appears to have a stronger argument for ending the receivership, it still faces an unresolved labour dispute, which could threaten its finances as well as its prestige, if El Al loses some of its routes to Arkia.

Even as Harari tries to concentrate on last year's big picture, he has to acknowledge this week's events. The outcome of his negotiations with the pilots, which resume in the next few days, could have a significant bearing on next year's big picture.



STRIKING A POSE. — An airport worker takes a nap during the 1982 strike by El Al workers. The airline has since been trying to rebuild.

(Isaiah Sun)

CROSSWORD

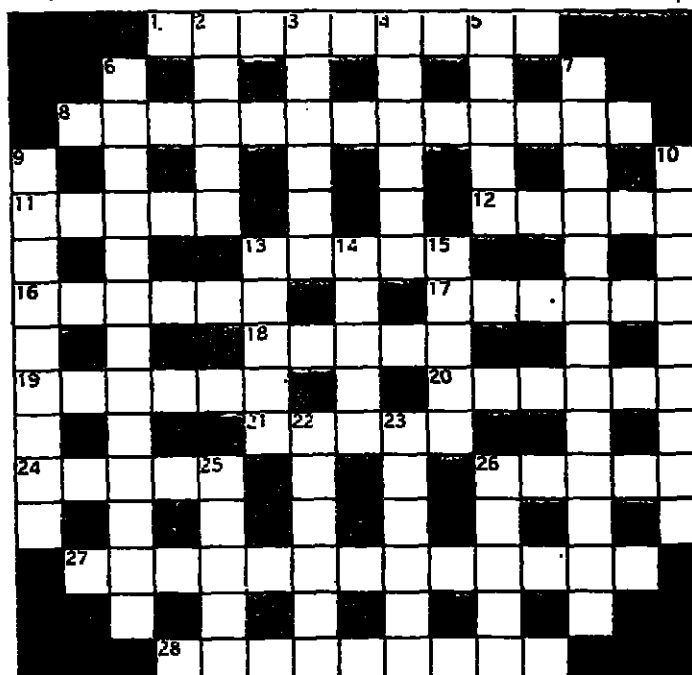
ACROSS

- 1 Study of stars and moon realigned to second coordinate (9)
- 8 The devil has a way to cut food supply, and the mob protest (15)
- 11 Please carefully drawn up become void in time (5)
- 12 Dwell tediously on a subject, and finally appeal to Marx (5)
- 13 Honest German invader of France (5)
- 16 Garden lovers' almanac? (6)
- 17 Duke who was ill-ran if not Chinese (6)
- 18 Tanker needed to keep the wheels of industry turning (5)
- 19 Bath biscuit for Cromwell (6)
- 20 Malt vinegar brewed from a lager (6)

- 21 Where in London play has not been called off (5)
- 24 Silly fellow who is for the chop (5)
- 26 Dig out a story that makes the headlines (5)
- 27 He rings an army base by dispersing oil not gas (13)
- 28 Use Jenny to tell the story (4,1,4)

DOWN

- 2 Prominent Socialist stranded (5)
- 3 A bit of a pig, and more impetuous (6)
- 4 The invader who wasn't a woman either? (6)
- 5 The striker played by the football team (5)



Yesterday's Solution

HORSEGUARDS W E
C O A R E S I G N
C I S A R M A M E N T I U
N P S E T S T E M
W A I I E E
I M P U T E S I N S U R E
L R S U I C E S A
D A I L B E S P O T
L I S E I N E O I
U N S W E P T I N F E R N O
S I C K A T N
S T R O Y N K A T
A W Y O U N D A N T I B E R
R E E L Z O S T I R
C R P A R T Y P I E C E S

QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Seethe, 4 Light, 8 Ravel, 9 Arduous, 10 Ill-used, 11 Sire, 12 Yen, 14 Epée, 15 Acme, 18 Née, 21 Loft, 22 Nat'nal, 25 Ulisse, 26 Canoe, 27 Haste, 28 Flurry, DOWN: 1 Sordid, 2 Envelop, 3 Helmsman, 4 Lido, 5 Ghost, 6 Tasted, 7 Hardy, 13 Nautical, 16 Mariner, 17 Slouch, 19 Enter, 20 Fleets, 22 Foils, 24 Fire

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Stupid
- 4 Divisions of the nave
- 9 Deep regret
- 10 Drunkard
- 11 Roman censor
- 12 Physical nature of land
- 13 Chinese sauce
- 14 Refrain from food
- 16 Firry drink
- 18 Piece of legislation
- 20 Mattress fabric
- 21 Facial skin eruption
- 24 Bunch
- 25 Not taking sides
- 26 Ringed planet
- 27 Peasant rebel

DOWN

- 1 Conifer
- 2 Boundary
- 3 Thread
- 5 Return on capital
- 6 Arctic country
- 7 Calm and dignified
- 8 Important
- 13 Paint remover
- 15 Narrative
- 17 Old instrument of punishment
- 19 Great pain
- 20 One who trades
- 22 Christmas song
- 23 Leave

Planning a holiday? Book in Britain

BRUSSELS (AFP). — The same "package" holiday on Spain's Costa del Sol will cost you twice as much if you buy it from a West German tour operator rather than a London travel agent, according to a report released here by a European consumer group.

The European Bureau of Consumer's Unions (Bec) report revealed astonishing differences in prices charged in the 12-nation European Community for identical holidays in EEC sun spots.

After its survey of prices charged in Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and West Germany for stays in 57 different hotels, the Bec has called on EEC authorities to take action to bring prices into line.

In one glaring example of price variation, the Bec said a travel agency in Britain wanted about \$400 for a two-week all-in holiday at a Spanish resort; West German tourists had to pay 82 per cent more for the same deal.

In Brussels itself, one firm charged

94 per cent more than a London agency for the same half-board accommodation at Chalkidiki in Greece.

Though "such big differences reflected the isolation" within which travel agents in any country could operate, the Bec could not explain why two Britons could spend two weeks in Greece for the same price as a single Belgian.

In general, British firms asked less for a "package" holiday — flight, hotel and food — than their continental counterparts, while the West Germans were the most expensive.

"Holidaymakers have to wake up," said the report. "Many people pay far too much for their holidays. They would have an interest in looking at the prices offered across the border."

Five per cent of the tourists surveyed went home dissatisfied, the Bec said. Most complained about poor accommodation, delays and last-minute changes in the organization of their stays.

Some 12 per cent of tourists also said they had been misled by the travel agents' brochures.

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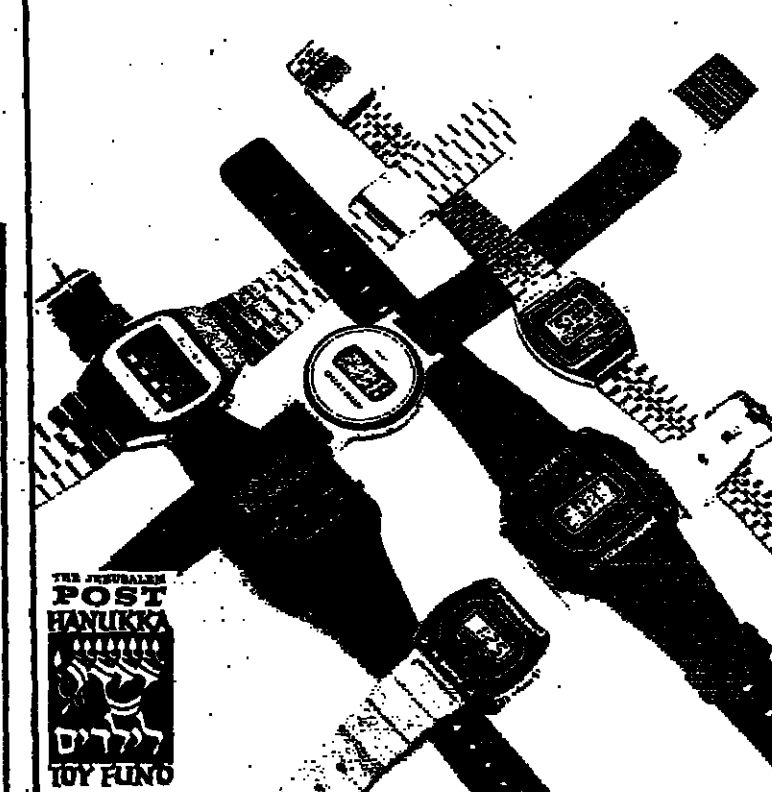
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Jerusalem Post

MARKET PLACE

AVI TEMKIN

Flights of fancy

All of a sudden taxes are popular again among Lavi supporters in the cabinet. Most of them are Likud members, which means they belong to the party that so proudly tried to take the credit for this year's alleged tax reform. The proposals put forward include higher income taxes, higher travel taxes, re-introducing levies on cars or reintroducing compulsory loans. Their intention is to raise the \$200 million a year needed to finance the Lavi without facing the consequences of such choice in their own ministries' budgets. For the benefit of these ministers here is a list of simple lessons offered by the textbook on the effects of such measures:

Lesson No. 1: More taxes do not always mean larger revenue. A strange thing has happened at the Treasury. Following the reduction in tax rates in April, the ministry was expecting a drop in tax revenues. Surprisingly, not only has tax collection not dropped, but there has been a slight increase. This is really no surprise; it is exactly the result forecasted by the textbooks. When tax rates go down the incentive to evade paying taxes is reduced. Thus, according to Lesson No. 1, there is no guarantee that by increasing tax rates, there will be an increase in revenue.

Lesson No. 2: People can evade paying taxes by simply not working. At some point individuals will conclude that it is not worth their while making an additional effort to earn an additional shekel, if a large part of it is going to go to the taxman. Taxes hurt the motivation to work. Since it is easier for people with high income levels to evade paying by using legal and illegal devices, most of the burden will fall on the middle- and lower-income groups, where work motivation and productivity really count.

Lesson No. 3: Is a lesson in geography: Israel is not Albania. Israeli citizens can evade paying taxes by simply leaving this country. The rest of the civilized world is trying to reduce tax rates, and this country can be no exception. It does not take very much to induce Israelis to try their luck abroad. Perhaps the Lavi boosts national morale, but knowing that we have one of the highest tax rates in the world is likely to sap a good deal of that feeling.

Lesson No. 4: Taxes can be inflationary. In the case of higher income taxes, workers, and especially the self-employed, will try to protect their target net returns, or after-tax income, and the only way they will be able to do so, in the case of higher taxes, will be by raising the prices they charge for their services. Other taxes, like purchase taxes, a larger travel tax or a levy on private cars are inflationary as well. They are taken into account in compiling the Consumer Price Index. A higher CPI means larger and more frequent payments of cost-of-living allowances.

Lesson No. 5: Compulsory loans are regarded by the population as taxes, which means they have all the drawbacks as a means of financing the jet fighter. On top of that, they also increase the national debt. Debts need to be paid, which means that in 10 or 15 years, when the loan matures, the government will be able to spend less on other items, such as education, health or social services.

Lesson No. 6: Compulsory loans are compulsory savings. People are forced to channel their savings into government obligations. This will leave less money to save in other kinds of assets. This means less money for firms raising capital in the stock exchange, less money for provident funds and less money for insurance companies. Competition for capital will grow, and this will lead to higher interest rates. Higher interest rates means that firms will find it more and more expensive to invest or to expand production facilities, and many will scale down or abandon plans for new factories and other sources of jobs and profits. In other words, higher interest rates mean a slower pace of economic growth.

Thus, in return for the higher taxes, the IDF will get the Lavi, at least for the time being. In return for the Lavi the country will get higher taxes, higher interest rates, more tax evasion, less work motivation, more emigration and less economic growth.

Next week, we'll find out whether the cabinet flunked the course.

Dollar, stocks, and oil price plunge

Trade-gap fears shake

Dow, currency

LONDON (Reuters). - Delayed worries about the U.S. economy after bad trade figures last week sent the dollar tumbling in Europe yesterday.

Wall Street share values also fell sharply as the dollar slid below 1.85 Deutschmarks, and the weakness on Wall Street helped cause a drop on London's stock market.

"No one wants to buy dollars at the moment," a currency dealer in Frankfurt said.

The dollar, at its weakest in a month, ended the day in Europe worth 1.8444 marks and 146.15 yen, after 1.8762 and 149.85 last night. Ten days ago it was worth 1.89 marks and 151.6 yen.

Dealers said a big U.S. trade deficit for June, announced on Friday, of \$15.7 billion was the main reason for the fall. At midday on Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial average was down 42.41 points at 2568.16 after closing Monday above 2700 for the first time. "As investors know, the stock market came a long way in a short time," said Butcher and Singer analyst Thom Brown. He viewed the sharp decline as "normal profit-taking in a continuing bull market." (See New York Financial Markets for later prices and dollar rates.)

New York brokers said the dollar's weakness both hurt foreign confidence in American investments and threatened to revive inflation in the U.S., which would be bad for business.

The London Financial Times 100-share index closed down 34.8 at 2248.8. London dealers said prices were hurt by the fall on Wall Street. Tokyo and Frankfurt share values also fell.

The pound sterling and the price of gold rose as the dollar dipped. The pound ended the day in London worth \$1.6105 after 1.5915 last night.

Nesher now powered by coal, but who's?

By JEFF BLACK

For The Jerusalem Post
RAMLE. - Nesher Cement Enterprises Ltd. here yesterday became Israel's first heavy industrial plant to switch to coal as its source of energy.

Nesher's managing director, Menachem Aviram, said coal had three advantages over heavy oil, the plant's previous energy source. First of all, he pointed out, coal was cheaper than oil while, secondly, its price does not fluctuate because of world events such as tension in the Gulf. Finally, Aviram said, there was no government intervention in determining the price of coal.

Nesher has contracted to buy 200,000 tons of coal a year from two international suppliers, the Rotterdam-based firm SMM, and Primary, which is based in the U.S.

Aviram refused to discuss the source of these firms' coal supplies when asked about the possibility that the coal originated in South Africa.

Representatives of SSM present at the ceremony marking the switch-over at the plant, said their firm had closed down its offices in South Africa during the past year and did not buy coal from that country. The Primary representative would only say that he did not know the source of his company's coal.

Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar - who spoke at the opening ceremony along with Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon, and the managing directors of Koor Ltd. and Clal Industries Ltd., Yeshiyahu Gavish and Amos Marchant, respectively - said he assumed the coal for the plant did not originate from South Africa. He noted that South African coal was no cheaper than Australian.

Nesher invested \$21 million to make the switch to coal, with funds provided by its two main shareholders, Koor and Clal, as well as from internally generated funds and some assistance from the government.

Aviram said it would take at least five or six years to cover the cost of the investment. He added that the plant's new facilities would also enable it to sell ground coal to other industries that wish to use coal as an energy source.

Ample stocks force down

petroleum

Post Economic Staff and Agencies
Petroleum prices on world spot markets dipped sharply yesterday, as jitters about the Gulf war and its potential effect on supplies gave way to confidence that Opec overproduction and Western oil stocks could easily compensate for a cut-off of supplies from the region.

In New York, where the drop in prices began on Monday, prices picked up a little bit in the morning, but were again heading downwards at midday. The U.S. benchmark

crude, West Texas intermediate, stood at \$19.81 a barrel at midday, down two cents on Monday, when it plunged 74 cents a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange to below \$20 for the first time in nearly two months.

Despite the gains of the morning, analysts remained bearish. "Energy futures are correcting slightly from [Monday's] dramatic decline, but the fundamental and technical factors are still weak," said Mark Scullion of Mocatta Futures Inc.

In Tokyo, the local benchmark, Dubai, traded at \$16.89, its lowest level since early May, and \$2 below a peak of \$18.90 two weeks ago.

Analysts said oil prices were falling in spite of tension in the Gulf. Market experts said that, even if the Gulf were shut, other producers could turn up the taps and refiners

could draw on stocks to make up the five to six million barrels - only about 10 per cent of total world demand - that daily pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, they add, the Opec cartel had been producing above its self-imposed output ceiling, threatening its price floor of \$18 a barrel. Traders now think that another bout of over-supply may be in prospect, and Gulf jitters no longer are enough to keep prices high.

"There's nothing to support the market. It's over-supplied," said a trader in Tokyo.

The question now is not whether a new 1970s-style "oil shock" is in prospect, but whether the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is losing its battle to peg prices.

Prices diverged from \$30 as low as \$9 a year ago.

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El Al slips back

AFTER a long period of peace on its labour front, El Al is freshly in headline-catching trouble. Flight captains suddenly report sick, management refuses to seek replacements for them and timetables are disrupted. Wrathful passengers call a plague on both pilots and management, and vow never again to fly Israel's national carrier.

It is as if nothing at all has happened at El Al during the past five years. As if the airline were still being run not by management but by the air crews. Indeed, as if strikes and sanctions were still part of the standard operating procedure in this government corporation.

Along with the rest of the world economy, only more so, the airline industry has changed drastically since the second oil shock of 1979. Countries in both the industrialized and developing world have been forced to come to terms with the imperatives of efficiency and competition. Forewarned by U.S. President Carter's open skies policy, airlines in particular have had to jettison artificial cartel arrangements.

Economic survival, the airlines learned, would no longer be assured through cushy IATA agreements but only by means of leaner operations, lower fares and better service. Carriers that failed to pare the fat and get in shape would plummet, as many have.

Myopic El Al was saved from complete ruin just in the nick of time in 1982, when it went into receivership with an oppressive \$300 million debt on its back. The signal was unmistakable: the airline was to be run with new economic discipline until it could become either viable or fit to be sold to private bidders. Employee rights would, in the meantime, be honoured but feasting at taxpayers' expense would be ended.

The company's debt is far from being wiped out, though the fact that El Al is now making a decent profit is heartening. This is a direct result of its having been able to prove to all and sundry that it can be relied upon to deliver the goods, court-teously and on time.

But can it really? A major unresolved problem of El Al is the tight grip which the pilots' guild maintains on the entry of new recruits to the company.

Thanks to extensive air-force training, this country is blessed with an actual over-supply of pilots, most of whom would be glad to serve El Al and at much lower salaries than the company's fliers now receive. The injection of such new blood would greatly improve El Al's competitive position.

The veteran pilots are determined, however, to shut the door on newcomers willing to work for less. That is the true background to the latest flap at Ben-Gurion Airport, and not the supposed disagreement about summer leave.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu has acted wisely in serving prompt notice that he will not tolerate the pilots' nonsense. He did so by announcing his intention to transfer El Al's routes to Athens and Istanbul to Arkia, now a private airline.

The nature of that warning should be obvious. Arkia is itself no commercial threat to the national carrier. But if El Al slips back to its old ways, it will soon enough lose all its routes. The receivership meant to succour it — but never meant to last for five years — will itself be wound up.

POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. WESTERN thirst-quenchers such as cola and ice cream are freely available in China these days, but when the summer sun starts to scorch, the masses still reach for a melon.

From steamy Shanghai in the east to the arid deserts in the west, one billion people spit, dribble juice and expertly slap street market watermelons, judging the quality by the resulting hollow thud.

China's annual melon orgy has been blamed for riots, public health scares and massive profiteering by traders.

Peking's nine million citizens munch and slurp their way through about 250 million kilos of the cooling fruit every summer, according to the city government.

Watermelons are big business. Consumers tune in to evening television bulletins which report current melon prices as avidly as stockbrokers watching share fluctuations.

For growers and traders, China's new free-market economic policies have made the business a lucrative one.

"Everyone likes a melon," said a melon seller listening to her personal stereo as she lounged on a huge pyramid of the fruit at her Peking street stall.

One trader said he expected a profit of \$50 yuan (\$130) a day in the summer months — equal to about six months' pay for an average city worker.

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P.S. GIRAFFE pate, crocodile croquettes and venison pie could replace traditional roast mutton and beef at the dinner table, says a South African conservationist and game-meat expert.

Magnus Penny, who has been exporting game-meat from South Africa for 17 years and is a pioneer in wild-animal culling, says taking advantage of South Africa's wildlife resources is "the only way to go".

Interviewed in *The Johannesburg Sunday Star*, Penny said South Africa's cattle, sheep and goats were destroying the land by eating their way through it at a rate of about 15 kilometres a year.

"Farmers will soon find it far more productive to raise game for venison. Not only is wild game easier to husband, they also provide meat uncontaminated by bacteria and chemicals," Penny said.

Penny swears by crocodile meat, having sold 1,000 crocodiles for the dinner table this year. He hopes to have 50,000 available in five years.

South Africa's Nile crocodile was the tastiest. "The crocodile tails are the prime cut and taste like crayfish," Penny said, adding that the crocodile was a "fascinating, non-violent beast."

P.S. CHINA plans to build a mausoleum for Genghis Khan, the 13th-century Mongolian emperor who conquered much of Asia and Europe.

The official China News Service says the mausoleum would be located in the northwestern city Lanzhou where the Mongolian conqueror died in 1227.

Genghis Khan, criticized as a "Mongolian chauvinist" during the decade of chaos begun in 1966, known as the Cultural Revolution, has been rehabilitated by China's reformist leaders in recent years in their reassessment of history.

The news agency said Genghis Khan's remains, his tent, armour and clothes would be removed from a nearby temple and installed in the mausoleum. It did not say when the project would be completed.

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Gorbachev's Russia

The KGB are still on call

David Krivine

WHAT IS WRONG with life in the Soviet Union today?

Nothing — for people who do what they are told, believe what they are told to believe, and like what they are told to like. Living standards are perhaps below par, but then Russia is not the only country where that applies.

For people with minds of their own, however, it is another story. In Stalin's day such individuals disappeared, either for half a lifetime in a Siberian jail or forever in some distant grave. Since that epoch there has been a measure of liberalization. Under Gorbachev, it is called openness, *glasnost*. But is it really liberalization?

Elena Bonner's deeply moving book, *Alone Together*, provides an answer. Liberalization would require the existence of an independent judiciary which stops not only private citizens but also the government itself from breaking the law.

In the Soviet Union a code of laws exists, but the government is not subject to it. Whatever the government does is "legal." If a person sues the authorities in court, the judge will be told by the authorities how to respond.

Some change has taken place since Stalin. Under Khrushchev and Brezhnev the dictatorship became less malevolent. Under Gorbachev it even shows signs of mild benevolence. But a dictatorship it remains.

The most militant dissident in the Soviet Union is Andrei Sakharov, who expresses his protests loudly. Protest is not permitted, but he is a scientist of world repute and his integrity is unquestioned. So it was decided to attack him through his wife, Elena.

Sakharov is alleged to be an innocent man corrupted by this Zionist agent of the American CIA. An article by Nikolai Yakovlev launched the attack. "A horrible woman," he said, "forced herself on the widower Sakharov."

IMAGINE THAT after a few years Mr. Gorbachev leads forward on to the stage a nice, bashful, grinning bear with its claws clipped and its fur fumigated of all traces of blood and lice, which wants only to play with us. What should we do then with our hate and fear?

Even thinking about such a world baffles a Western imagination trained to think in simple polarities not just for the 40 years of Cold War but for most of the 70 years since the October Revolution. Last year, the Anglo-German *Königswinter* conference tried to face the question: "Do we want Gorbachev to succeed?" and the original question found no answer.

I thought of this riddle, when I read the latest numbers of two left-wing periodicals: *Marxism Today* (which is the debating-place not only of British Eurocommunists but of much of the non-Communist left), and *End Journal*, published by the European Nuclear Disarmament movement. In the former, there is a discussion between Professor Eric Hobsbawm and Peter Glotz, until recently general-secretary of the West German Social Democrats, which centres on prospects in "Gorbachev's Europe." The latter contains the impressions of several CND and END personalities after visits to Moscow this May.

For some survivors of left struggles, there is no problem here. An ancient hope, buried under so many layers of collapsed illusion — the purges, the Moscow trials, the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 — finds itself stirring again. Faded eyes glow, old fists remember how to clench, and there returns the dream that the star of true revolutionary socialism will rise once more in the East.

The other day in Vienna, I met a colleague of General Jaruzelski's. "Mark my words," he said after a good lunch, "within a few years you will see the whole idealism of youth in the West turn again towards the Soviet Union which Mikhail Gorbachev is leading."

READERS' LETTERS

THE PRICE OF TICKETS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — I agree with Margaret Bernstein (Letters — August 3) about the outrageous prices of theatre and concert tickets. (Incidentally, these prices are not reserved for immigrants and we all pay very dearly for the privilege of seeing visiting artists here in Israel.)

Precisely because of exorbitant ticket prices, the recent Ray Charles concert in Caesarea was the first such event I have allowed myself since making aliya 11 years ago. I paid NIS 55 for my NIS 50 orchestra seat (apparently because it was purchased several days in advance), and was not even fortunate enough to enjoy a full evening of the music I had paid so dearly for and travelled more than an hour to hear.

Totally unaware of the fact that Ray Charles would not be performing throughout the entire concert (as were most other people to whom I spoke), I was shocked to find myself subjected to the unintelligible and unwelcome wailings of one Ricki Lee Jones for the first half of the evening. My ticket said that I had paid NIS 50 (we know better) to see "Ray Charles in Concert" — not Ray Charles in half a concert, or even Ray Charles and Ricki Lee Jones. Whoever decided that Miss Jones is fit company for a performer of Mr. Charles's stature was gravely mistaken (and obviously had never heard her "sing" *Autumn Leaves*).

When the incomparable Mr. Charles finally did appear on stage at 11:10, it was only for a brief hour. For this ardent Ray Charles fan, it was too little, too late, and far too expensive. I hope the Bernsteins at least got their money's worth of Derek Jacobi.

BEWARE OF FLATTERERS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post*: Sir, — The message Rabbi Peli derives from the Tora portion, *Devarim*, in his column *Tora Today* of July 31 that true friends criticize, while enemies praise, is often lost on many in this country when they hear complaints raised by new immigrants. During my 17-year residence here, my own criticisms have seldom been received by native-born Israelis in a positive manner. Once, for example, when I dared tell a class of ninth graders that, in my opinion, the quality of our army was lower today than it was during the Six Day War, most of the class simply walked out on me.

Some times think that many here view criticisms expressed by new immigrants as a sign of disloyalty. If so, Rabbi Peli does well to point out that the Tora clearly teaches that the opposite is really the case. Beware of flatterers. Critics, even when they censure in painful terms, are really expressing the highest level of love and profound concern. Jerusalem. MELVYN MILLMAN

WHO IS THIS "horrible woman"? Her father was an Armenian called Gevork Alikhanov, prominent in the Communist Party and, like most good Communists, executed by Stalin in 1937. Her mother, who is still alive (at least she was when the book was published last year) is a Jewess, born as Ruth Bonner. Elena, proud of both her Armenian and her Jewish descent, adopted her mother's maiden name, although she herself is a Christian by religion.

She served as an army nurse in World War II and her eyesight was badly damaged on the Volkhov front in 1941. Her first husband, father of her three children, was a non-Jew called Ivan Semyonov. Yet her daughter Tatyana was expelled from Moscow University in 1972 for demonstrating in front of the Lebanese Embassy against the murder of the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics. Tatyana married a Jew named Efrim Yankelevich, and they now live in the U.S.

Elena thus has a part-Jewish background, which Yakovlev and others were eager to seize on. She wrote her book in 1985, during a six-month stay in the U.S., where she went for a by-pass heart operation. She evidently longed to remain in Massachusetts for good with her family, most of whom live there. But she went back to Russia — in order to be with Sakharov, who needs her and whom she deeply loves.

They have a cause to uphold: freedom under law, and they struggle for it with every breath of their being. It is the Sakharovs alone against the whole apparatus of the Soviet state. How is the contest fought? The couple tried to sue Yakovlev for libel. The judge in charge would not register their plea. He had been told not to, so there was no hearing.

IT IS AMAZING how much manpower is devoted in the USSR to keeping watch and ward on unruly citizens. All Elena's mail went to the KGB. "The agents saw me posting letters, no matter which box I used," she says.

The powers-that-be wanted the Sakharovs to know that they were under constant supervision. Their car was sabotaged: Andrei would find one morning that his new tyres had been replaced by tyres worn bald. Husband and wife would come back after a walk to find a tube of toothpaste missing in the bathroom or a pair of glasses removed. The absent item would be replaced secretly a week later. They would

receive by post sealed envelopes with the letter abstracted.

WHEN THEY returned to their Moscow home after 20 months' absence in Gorky, they found three men at the apartment door on the 7th floor and a whole carful down at the street entrance.

A window had blown open months before; the flat was full of water and muck. The refrigerator had stopped working with food in it that had rotted away. Yet it turned out that the guards had been on the landing the whole 20 months night and day. "They even had a cot so they could rest in shifts," says Elena.

Films were made showing Sakharov and his wife in the best of health. The camera work was done without their knowledge. Andrei was once called to the

garage where his car was being repaired.

"The head mechanic himself came out to see Andrei and shook his hand warmly. And they did the repair for free! But my husband, amazed by this, does not know he is being filmed for display to the entire world."

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ANDREI'S ULTIMATE weapon is the hunger-strike, and it is a powerful one — provided the outside world can be apprised of it — because Sakharov is headline news. The Russians want to prevent his contacts with the outside world.

As punishment for defaming the Soviet motherland, he was exiled to Gorky, eight hours by train from Moscow and far from enquiring foreigners.

His telephone was removed from the flat. When he wanted to demonstrate in support of a demand that Elena be allowed to go abroad for treatment (in which other country would that be a problem?) police burst into the apartment, anesthetized him and took him away without telling Elena where.

She wanted to inform her relatives abroad, but her communications were censored. What they received were forged postcards, faked cables. She once wrote, in reply to news of a journey her daughter was undertaking, "I alone wish you a good trip." The daughter would immediately understand from the word "alone" that Sakharov was missing. The message she received was, "We wish you a good trip," with Sakharov's forged signature added.

IT IS AMAZING how much manpower is devoted in the USSR to keeping watch and ward on unruly citizens. All Elena's mail went to the KGB. "The agents saw me posting letters, no matter which box I used," she says.

The powers-that-be wanted the Sakharovs to know that they were under constant supervision. Their car was sabotaged: Andrei would find one morning that his new tyres had been replaced by tyres worn bald. Husband and wife would come back after a walk to find a tube of toothpaste missing in the bathroom or a pair of glasses removed. The absent item would be replaced secretly a week later. They would

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